

ACC battle thrown open again

Lord Grade's former group Association Communications Corporation is effectively up for sale to the highest bidder after the Court of Appeal declared invalid promises that would have given Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian financier, control for £36m. ACC directors were cleared of not acting in the best interests of their shareholders. Page 15

£567m profit for Barclays

Barclays Bank made record pre-tax profits last year of £567m, a rise of 8 per cent. The bank also announced that it has now lent £1,000m to home buyers and expects the total to rise to £1,600m this year.

Toxteth school 'unease'

The Prime Minister and the press have been criticized over their reaction to vandalism at St. Servatius's primary school in Toxteth, Liverpool. The school's new headmaster reported an "uneasy and irrational atmosphere" in the school after it reopened. Community leaders later accused reporters of sensationalism. Page 3

Weapons found on hijack jet

A rifle and a dagger were found on the hijacked Air Tanzania jet at Stansted airport, Essex. The police are inquiring whether the weapons belonged to any of the passengers, whose return home was postponed for a day. Page 2

Schmidt defends his ministers

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has publicly defended his top aide and two senior ministers under investigation in a bribery and tax evasion scandal. He said complete confidence in all three and saw no reason to suspend them. Page 6

Reagan budget sure to fail

It is now certain that President Reagan's controversial 1983 budget will not be passed by Congress because of a palace revolt among Republicans who cannot accept the large deficit built into the President's proposals. Page 8

Threat of war in Lebanon

The Syrians have dug their tanks in advanced positions south of their line in Lebanon. The Israelis have started conducting nightly live-fire exercises and daily harassment of United Nations troops. Page 8

Trees moved for the Pope

Thirty-six trees are to be moved from Bellerophon Park in Glasgow so that crowds who gather to see the Pope when he visits the city in June will have a better view.

Sponsorship for League Cup

The League Cup will be sponsored for the next four seasons by the National Dairy Council in a deal worth £2.5m. The name will be changed to the Milk Cup and a new trophy designed. Page 19

'Times' move

Compulsory notices to 210 clerical employees of The Times and The Sunday Times have been suspended for five days "to lend a more helpful atmosphere to the talks between the management and the workers' union. Page 2

Prosser trial

Council for the prosecution said that medical evidence would be given at the trial of three prison officers accused of murdering Mr Barry Prosser in Winson Green Prison, that his death was likely to have been caused by two or three people. Page 3

Letters: On parents and Euro-
voting court ruling, from Mrs
Valerie Riches, and others;
TV by satellite, from Mr G.
Johnson Smith, Mr and Mrs
Paul Fox; Winfrith threat,
from Mr C. S. Green.
Leading articles: South African
cricket; Oil policies;
Bathgate.
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National Service: the new de-
bate; Britain's poor record in
human rights; the problems of
the gifted child.
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Sport Minister attacks cricket tour as 'deception'

By John Witherow and Philip Webster in London, Trevor Fishlock in Delhi and Michael Hornsby in Johannesburg

The Government yesterday condemned as "a total deception" the decision by 12 English cricketers to play in South Africa, and expressed overseas threatened the future of international and even county cricket.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, issued a statement in which he said: "I view this visit with the greatest dismay. It has done a tremendous amount of goodwill that had been built up in the past decade or so. What particularly concerns me is the total secrecy in which this visit has been carried out. It is all the elements of deception by the players concerned."

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, let it be known that she was angry. She recognizes that the tour contravenes the spirit of the Gleneagles Agreement of 1977, discouraging sporting links with South Africa, and which the Government is pledged to uphold.

But, as she will make clear in the Commons today, when she is expected to be questioned about the tour, there is nothing the Government can do to prevent it taking place. Mrs Thatcher is perturbed that, because of the clandestine manner in which the tour was planned, the Government had no opportunity to make its views known in advance and to attempt to dissuade the players from going.

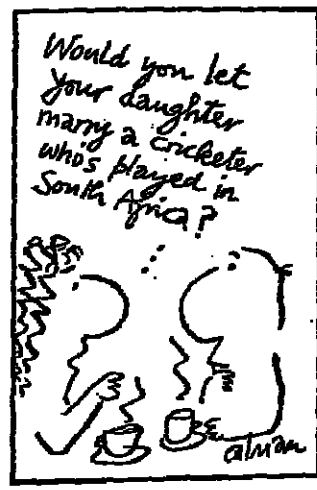
She is likely to tell MPs that since Britain is a free country, nothing could or would be done to stop people embarking on a course over which the Government disapproved. I am surprised that she has not signed a statement of disapproval with Mr Macfarlane's description of the tour as "deception".

He said yesterday: "I feel there will be reverberations throughout the cricket world. I am surprised at the speed at which the tour was organized. I only heard about it at the weekend, and wish I had had the chance to speak to the players involved, and to remind them of the possible consequences of their actions."

For the players the most serious decision is likely to come from the Test and County Cricket Board. The executive committee meets on Thursday and is likely to make recommendations about the tour. The match fixtures of the players involved in the South African matches.

Members of the board last night met Mr Macfarlane, and Mr Donald Carr, secretary of the TCCB, said he was concerned about a backlash by the West Indies, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which could isolate England and perhaps lead to repercussions in other sports.

Mr Peter Lush, for the TCCB, said last night that if this summer's tour by India and Pakistan is cancelled and no replacement tourists could be found, county cricket would lose more than £1m. "That would be a terrible blow—one from which the game might never recover," he said. "The implications for cricket, not only in this country but around the world, are very serious, as



Oxford don who exposed 'sale' of places resigns

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Oxford don at the centre of the dispute over Wadham College's decision to "sell" two places to the children of an overseas benefactor has resigned because of being made to feel like a traitor. Mr Peter Gwyn, who has a one-year research fellowship in history at Wadham, had earlier threatened to resign unless the college made public its agreement with Mr Lee Shau Kee, a Hongkong businessman, to accept two of his children as undergraduates, provided they satisfied the minimum matriculation requirements. Mr Gwyn resigned in protest over the school's sale of the Malory manuscript. Wadham has confirmed that it has accepted his resignation. The fellowship was worth £1,500.

Saudi oil output down by 15%

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia's oil output last month was more than 15 per cent below the official production ceiling of 8.5 million barrels a day, reliable sources indicated yesterday as Britain prepared to cut its North Sea oil price for the second time in less than four weeks.

Industry sources said that liftings of oil from Saudi Arabia, the largest exporter in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, were down to little over 7 million barrels a day in February. It is the second successive month that Saudi Arabian output has dropped below official projected production levels, liftings in January being estimated at about 7.9 million barrels a day.

The disclosure adds to the confusion in world oil markets. Saudi Arabia has been under increasing pressure from other Opec members to reduce production to try to halt the drop in crude oil prices. Prices of freely traded individual cargoes of oil on the spot market, a traditional barometer of world price trends, have fallen by about 15 per cent since the start of the year in the face of a supply estimated to be running at 2.5 million barrels a day in excess of demand.

The drop in Saudi Arabian production is not an official cut in production levels, which the kingdom's rulers have so far refused to make. It represents a decision by some of the partners in Aramco, the consortium of four United States oil companies which owns nearly all Saudi Arabian output, to take less oil than they are entitled to.

The move will help to eliminate some of the world surplus, but oil companies say it will not be nearly enough to halt the downward pressure on prices. It will certainly not be enough to prevent another reduction in the price of North Sea oil.

The British National Oil Corporation, which trades about two-thirds of Britain's North Sea oil, is expected to tell its main customers today or tomorrow that it is preparing to reduce the price of oil from its present level of \$35 a barrel. The corporation is likely to offer a cut of \$2 and possibly more. The price of oil was last reduced by \$1.50 in the second week of February.

The move is likely to lead to a slight further easing in petrol prices, although the large companies such as BP, Shell and Esso, whose refineries have been making heavy losses on petrol and other products — will be reluctant to pass on any price reductions to motorists. Petrol prices have fallen from more than £1.70 in a litre to an average of £1.49.

Each \$1 fall in oil prices results in a loss to the Government of between £250m and £300m a year in lost North Sea taxes, according to the Treasury.

Russians land craft on Venus

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow, March 1

The Russians today landed an unmanned space module, carrying a miniature relief of Lenin on Venus, and have begun experiments to find out what the red planet looks like from close range and what it is made of.

Venera-13 was launched four months ago and after travelling 187 million miles arrived at Venus this morning. Passing through dense layers of yellowish Venusian atmosphere, it landed softly on a plain east of the Phobos area at 3:57 am GMT.

It immediately set to work beeping back messages for more than two hours, much longer than expected while its parent spaceship called in near the planet and then zoomed off in orbit round the sun.

On its way down Venera-13 took chemical and isotope readings of the atmosphere, looked through its instruments at the cloud layers which have always prevented photography from Earth, and made a spectral analysis of solar radiation and electrical discharges in the atmosphere.

Basking safely on the ground in the searing heat of 457 degrees centigrade, protected by a special cooling device, the module started taking pictures through red, blue and green filters, which will give Soviet scientists pretty colour photographs of Earth's neighbour. They have already seen on their television screens an unrecognisable landscape of rugged stones scattered over loose rock.

One of the module's main jobs, like its American counterpart which first landed on Mars, is to find out what Venusian soil is made up of, and a small sampling device drilled a hole in the rock, grabbed a sample and took it to a hermetically sealed chamber



Moscow welcome: President Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, greeting with a smile and a comradely handshake General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's military leader, at Vnukovo airport.

Brezhnev says Russia has learnt from bitter lessons of Poland

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 1

President Brezhnev firmly endorsed martial law in Poland tonight, telling General Wojciech Jaruzelski, who had arrived here on a state visit this morning, that the Russians fully understood the "timely measures" he had taken.

At a state banquet, Mr Brezhnev said martial law was needed to cool passions and pull the country out of a protracted, extraordinary crisis. He said: "Had the Communists given way to the counter-revolution, had they yielded under the furious attacks by the enemies of socialism, the destinies of Poland, stability in Europe and the world at large would have been jeopardized."

Mr Brezhnev said the bitter lessons were something to learn from. It was not easy for Poland today, and "the waves of anarchy, chaos and terror" that had engulfed the country. The imperialist powers, especially the United States, were increasing pressure on Poland and in doing so were trampling law and morals underfoot.

But let no one hope that socialism will not defend itself," the Soviet leader declared. "It will, and with all resolution."

He hinted that the Russians would give no further economic aid to Poland but would develop new trade agreements made a month ago. And he

suggested that it was up to other Communist countries to help Poland out of its difficulties, for Poland and members of the Soviet trading bloc Comecon had the political will to organize their economic relations on a solid basis.

In reply, General Jaruzelski thanked the Soviet leader warmly for his support, called the Soviet Union the "bulwark of progress" and suggested that Poland was generally within the Soviet sphere of influence by referring specifically to the Yalta and Potsdam agreements which determined the two countries' destinies.

General Jaruzelski had arrived here this morning to a pointedly effusive welcome on his first visit abroad since martial law was declared.

He heads a large state and party delegation which is expected over the next two days to brief the Russians on the political, economic and security situation in Poland while bearing of Moscow's concern that there should be no let-up in martial law until a return to orthodox party control can be guaranteed.

Wearing full military uniform and dark glasses, General Jaruzelski was greeted on arrival at Moscow airport by President Brezhnev, who walked stiffly across the tarmac and embraced the Polish leader with customary heavy hugs.

Other senior Soviet figures at the airport, who are all expected to join in the crucial talks, included Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister; Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister; Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Minister of Defence; Mr Yuri Andropov, the head of the KGB security police; and Mr Konstantin Chernenko, a rising figure in the Politburo who has been taken over some of the late Mr Suslov's functions.

The Polish delegation included Mr Jozef Cyrtek, the Foreign Minister, who was here a few weeks ago to discuss aid and party relations, and Mr Florian Siwicki, the Deputy Minister of Defence, said by Western analysts to be a key figure in the military Government.

The Russians will use this visit to coordinate their responses with Warsaw to Western sanctions, and to hear at first hand the military government's plans for restoring political and economic order in Poland.

Beneath the surface, however, differences are likely to emerge on the relaxation of martial law, which the Russians, for all their ideological reservations, want to see continue until the shattered Polish Communist Party has been purged of all liberals.

Glenn joins swing, page 6

Plea for a little duck on the NHS

By David Hewson

Thanks to the intervention of Mr Geoffrey Dickens, the Conservative MP for Huddersfield West, the House of Commons may soon find itself debating whether duck and venison should be available on the National Health.

Jocular as the subject may sound, it is no laughing matter for Mrs Shirley Senior, a Huddersfield housewife, aged 46, whose plight has attracted Mr Dickens' attention. She is allergic, apparently, to every food but duck and venison. With Harrods selling duck at 88p a pound and venison for £3.20 yesterday, it is clearly an expensive complaint, and one so far unrelieved by financial support from the NHS.

Dr Julian Kenyon, who has been treating Mrs Senior, said yesterday that she reacted to other foods even in a double blind test—one in which neither doctor nor patient knows the true identity of the substance being tested. Duck and venison genuinely seemed to be the only nourishment Mrs Senior can take, Dr Kenyon affirmed.

Mrs Senior, who is five feet tall and weighs five stone 10lb is nearly a stone and a half under weight. She says that she spends more than £20 a week on private treatment and £10 a week on her expensive diet.

"Those foods are to me what medicine is to other people," she said at her home in Tenterfield Lane, Sheepridge, Huddersfield. "Some of it is at least should be paid for by the National Health Service and surely all the treatment I get should be paid for by the service. It is crippling us financially and we have to make a lot of sacrifices."

"I have asked Mr Dickens if he can persuade the Government to help thousands like me in the country who are having to endure untold misery, not only from illness or lack of treatment, but from lack of understanding from friends, relatives and doctors who think it's all in the mind."

Mr Dickens tabled a parliamentary question yesterday asking Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, if he would consider setting up a specialist unit to undertake allergy research and treat sufferers. Mr Dickens, who has applied for a debate on the subject, is pressing to have allergy recognized as a medical condition.

Our Medical Correspondent writes: Several cases have been described recently where a patient has been diagnosed as being allergic to a wide variety of twentieth century materials. This has caused a great deal of confusion among medical experts who feel that there is insufficient evidence for the idea of a "total allergy syndrome". They fear that their own research and reputation will suffer if unsubstantiated claims are made without well documented evidence.

How much would you pay to give a lost little girl a start in life?

Susie (that's not her real name) attends one of the special day care centres we run for children whose future is at risk. As little as £2 could help her.



Now, she's beginning to talk and smile, she enjoys painting, and she's building up confidence in herself so that as she gets older, she may be able to relate properly to others.

Susie's tragic story is typical. Little children like her, defenceless, bewildered, products of our confused society are the ones most likely to end up delinquent, making a mess of their own lives, and their own children's lives in turn.

At Barnardo's, we run day care centres with trained and dedicated helpers for these children. And, of course, we run residential homes and schools for children—but we are always concerned to try and keep children and parents together. Our help has no limits, but our money does. Skilled help like this costs a lot—though in the end it can not only give Susie a start in life, but also save society a great deal in later years.

Won't you send what you can today to me, Nicholas Lewis, Appeals Director, Room 304, Dr Barnardo's, Tennants Lane, Ilford, Essex, IG6 1QG. Or donate by credit card. Please telephone Teletext 01-230 0200, give your credit card number and quote Barnardo's Room No. 304.

Dr Barnardo's

NEWS IN SUMMARY
EEC budget protest by MPs

The long-running argument between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers about the Strasbourg Assembly's powers to change the EEC budget erupted during a meeting of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee at the Commons yesterday, when a Supplementary Estimate for £7.1m was under scrutiny (our Political Correspondent writes).

The payment represents a three-month tranche of money the British Government must provide to meet the extra £50m added by the European Parliament to the 1982 budget for food aid.

MEPs claimed that under the Rome Treaty they had power to extend the budget. The Council of Ministers disputes that, and has referred the matter to the European Court for a ruling.

In the face of protests by MPs yesterday over the British Government's decision to pay out the extra money in advance of a judgment, Mrs M. E. Hedges-Miller, Under-Secretary of the EEC section of the Treasury, said there was no question of the Government paying more than was due. If that were the case the matter would be rectified according to the court's decision.

The sum represents only about 0.5 per cent of the £11,500m covered by the Community's total budget.

Jockey settles out of court

Mr. Ernie Johnson, the jockey, yesterday settled out of court his legal dispute with the Newmarket racecourse authorities over an accident which put him out of racing for a season.

Mr Johnson had sued Newmarket Racecourses Trust over the accident in 1977 when his mount crushed his left leg against a stable ladder. Mr Johnson, aged 30, who alleged the gate was a hazard, said he lost earnings of £16,000 because of the accident.

Ford job scheme praised by MSC

The Manpower Services Commission yesterday urged young people to take part in the Ford's example by running 12-month training courses for young people (Donald Macintyre writes).

Under Ford's scheme, publicly-funded and 150 young people are being paid the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) allowance of £25 a week to do work, and learn basic machining, engine maintenance, catering and administration in three training workshops.

Mr Roger Dawe, special programmes division director, announced that more than 500,000 young people have entered YOP since last April.

£4,000 prize for festival design

A first prize of £4,000 is to be awarded to the winner of a competition to design an exhibition hall for the Liverpool International Garden Festival, to take place in 1984.

Plans for the festival were announced last year by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, after he was given special responsibility for the problems of Merseyside. The festival will run for six months on a site in the Liverpool South Docks.

Plessey appeal on sit-in

Plessey, the electronics firm, is to appeal against a court ruling on a five-week sit-in by workers at its Bathgate plant near Edinburgh. The appeal, on Thursday, could be a test case as to whether a sit-in is lawful if the workers' action is in furtherance of a trade dispute.

Lord Kinnear ruled at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday that the 130 workers must have a defence under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974. This reversed a court order banning the sit-in, which is aimed at keeping the plant open.

3cwt bust stolen

Thieves have stolen a 3cwt bronze bust of Lord Huddleston, the judge, from his grave in Bestwood Park, Nottingham. The bust, worth £400, was shortly to be moved to the Law Society's Museum in London.

THE STYLE IS VINTAGE BUT NOT THE PRICE

Also Old Corrugated and finest Old Tawnies.

NONALCOHOLIC PORT

Gun find delays passengers on hijack jet

By Michael Horswell

The return home of the Tanzanian hostages from Standedt, Essex, was delayed for 24 hours yesterday as police continued intensive inquiries which uncovered a new arsenal of weapons on the hijacked Boeing 737.

Mr Peter Simpson, assistant chief constable of Essex, disclosed that a rifle and a shotgun and live ammunition had been discovered on the Air Tanzania aircraft. A dagger and a sheath knife were also found.

Police are trying to discover whether the weapons belonged to any of the passengers who are known to be relatives of the four gunmen from the Tanzanian Youth Revolutionary Movement.

Further inquiries together with consultations with the Director of Public Prosecutions may mean that charges will be filed against some of the relatives within the next 36 hours.

Meanwhile, the taking of statements from the passengers delayed the return of the aircraft to Tanzania yesterday. Police said 81 people were on the jet when it landed, including the hijackers and six crew.

While statements were being taken, including some from passengers who do not speak English, police maintained strict security which prevented journalists from asking innocent questions about what had happened during the hijack, and the aircraft on the tarmac at Stansted.

A relief crew which arrived early yesterday was standing by to take the aircraft back.

The discovery of the weapons added a new dimension to police inquiries. When the hijackers surrendered on Sunday, they handed to children in their party a 0.38 revolver, two wooden pistols and a mock hand grenade, together with a box marked explosives, which police say was harmless.

Mr Simpson said: "After legal advice from the DPP and our own advisors it would be most unwise at this stage, due to the formulation of charges, to allow any interviews with hostages. The probability is that the majority of the hostages will leave."

Mr Simpson said the victims were recovering quite well. "It was quite an ordeal for many of them. This weekend has taught us many lessons," he said. "The major lesson is that if we follow our guide lines we can achieve a peaceful solution. Patience has been amply rewarded."

The condition of the co-pilot, who received a flesh wound shortly after the aircraft took off for its internal flight, is said to be comfortable.

As the hostages were escorted by police last night to a secret destination for their third night in Britain, Mr Charles Mykling-Ata, an official of the Tanzanian High Commission in London, described the fears and the relief of passengers at their rescue.

He said that the handful of children who travelled on the aircraft were aged eight months upwards. The children were well looked after and most remained calm throughout the ordeal. "It was their parents who were shaken and frightened throughout their trip."

Fourteen of the passengers, having been given visas to stay with relatives in Britain for a month, the Home Office said last night (Stewart Tindler writes).

Many are Asians with families in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Kambona plea not to return terrorists

By David Cross

Mr Oscar Kambona, the exiled former Tanzanian Foreign Minister who played a key role in the Standedt hijacking steps, yesterday urged the British Government not to return the four hijackers to Dar es Salaam.

"Although they must expect to face due process of law in Britain for the hijacking, they would at least get a fair trial," Kambona said. "In Tanzania, by contrast, the rule of law did not prevail and they were unlikely to get justice."

In a statement issued from his home in north London, where he lives with his family, Mr Kambona said he was glad to learn that the British authorities were considering whether to allow the families of the hijackers to stay in Britain.

"The fact that they risked the lives of their wives and children by taking them with them on the aircraft shows that this was not a common act of piracy," he added.

Mr Kambona emphasized, however, that he was totally opposed to the return of the hijackers to Tanzania, which he described as an "unwarranted act."

To learn that the British authorities, once one of President Julius Nyerere's closest advisers, had now turned his most bitter opponents, made it clear that the promise of a fair trial in Britain was one of the main factors in persuading the hijackers to surrender.

Although he claimed that he had no foreknowledge of the hijacking or the Revolutionary Youth Movement to which they claimed allegiance, Mr Kambona showed considerable understanding for their action.

The hijackers were "driven by economic and political conditions in Tanzania to undertake what we might consider to be an act of madness," he said. The hijacking was to them "the only way open to draw world attention to the plight of our people, who have suffered at the hands of a cruel dictator for a long time."

Mr Kambona said that during a brief meeting on Sunday, the hijackers had explained what had prompted their "act of desperation". They had said that they wanted President Nyerere to resign and to give way to a democratically elected government.

The hijackers had also complained about the disappearance of President Nyerere's opponents after falling into the hands of his security agents.

In addition, the Tanzanian economy was in ruins and ordinary people suffered from shortages of essential food.

Mr Kambona said that it was because of his sympathy for his fellow Tanzanians that he had agreed to request from the Foreign Office in London to intercede with the hijackers.

"Having done this and having helped in small measure to bring this unhappy episode to a peaceful solution I would now like to appeal to the British Government not to return these men to Tanzania."

The Tanzanian High Commission in London said yesterday that the Tanzanian government was deciding whether to seek the extradition of the hijackers. The High Commission's priority was to ensure that the hijacked passengers returned home safely.

AIRLINE BID FOR LAKER US ROUTE

By Michael Bailey

Laker Airways' 25 per cent share of traffic between Britain and Los Angeles, worth about £20m, could be lost to Britain unless the Government moved fast in designating another British carrier.

Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian Airways said yesterday.

He described proposed hearings by the Civil Aviation Authority of Laker's "instantly formed paper airline, Brenpage Ltd", as a "charade" and in a letter to Sir Neville Foulkes, chairman of the CAA, called for a "quickie" procedure to let BCal on to the route in May.

The immediate response from the CAA was discouraging, however. In view of the competing applications from Brenpage and BCal the CAA will carry out its statutory duties scrupulously and impartially, a spokesman said. "It would be wrong to prejudge decisions that should only be arrived at after public hearings."

Total traffic on the Britain-Los Angeles route is believed to be over 600,000 passengers, worth nearly £150m a year, of which British Airways and Laker Airways each year of around 25 per cent, the remainder shared by US carriers.

British Caledonian could operate six flights a week with its Boeing 747 aircraft and want exemption from normal licensing for six months to let them start in May before the summer season begins, a spokesman said. After that they would give the route up if their application for a licence was turned down.

STATISTICS CUTS ATTACKED

By Pat Healy

Statistics Correspondent

The Government was accused yesterday of threatening democratic debate in Britain by drastically reducing the collection of economic and social statistics. The charge was made by the Council of Civil Service Unions, which is campaigning to reverse cuts intended to save up to £25m and 2,500 jobs by 1984.

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Wind of change: Members of the London Symphony Orchestra wind ensemble playing on the floor of the Stock Exchange in London yesterday to publicise the opening by the Queen tomorrow of the Barbican Centre for the Arts.

Dorset jail rate criticized

By Frances Gibb

Dorset county magistrates are castigated for a rate of prison sentencing which is 50 per cent higher than the national average in a survey on imprisonment rates in magistrates' courts published today.

The report, by the Bristol group of Radical Alternatives to Prison, says the Dorset bench imprisoned 11.45 per cent of all male adults found guilty of indictable offences in 1980 compared with a national average for England and Wales of 8.45 per cent and a lowest rate of 3.2 per cent in Gwent.

"For every one man sent to prison in Gwent, in other words, the Dorset magistrates sent four," the report says.

What this means is that during 1980 the Dorset bench contributed to prison overcrowding at a rate four times greater than their colleagues in Gwent.

In 1980, magistrates in England and Wales sent 13,741 men to prison. If they had all sentenced at the Dorset rate, the figure would have risen to 20,246, which "would have pushed hard-pressed local prisons up and down the country beyond the point of collapse."

By contrast, it says, the Gwent rate spread nationwide would have meant only 5,203 men would have been sent to prison. That "would have gone a long way towards relieving some of the chronic pressures on 'dustbin' local establishments."

Within the overall imprisonment rate for Dorset the report says there is concealed another set of even greater injustices. The figures for Weymouth are almost twice the county average, almost four times the rate for the rural parts of Dorset and six times higher than in Gwent.

This is the third consecutive year in which the Dorset bench has headed the group's annual league table of rates of imprisonment and the fourth time in five years.

Second in the table is Lancashire, with a sentencing rate for male offenders of 11.81 per cent; then Cleveland, 11.43 per cent, then Sussex, 10.93.

The report adds that there are two redeeming features in the criminal statistics for 1980; that the national percentage of men imprisoned by magistrates has fallen for the first time in five years from 8.6 per cent in 1979 to 8.45 per cent; and that some benches are lessening their use of imprisonment.

Suffolk, which came sixth in the 1979 table with an 11 per cent imprisonment rate, now comes 21st, with the exact national average of 8.45 per cent. Gloucestershire, too, which once regularly headed the league, has dropped from first place in 1977 to 26th in 1980.

The group has written to Mr E. Now examining the Criminal Justice Bill in committee urging amendments to the Bill which would bring about further reductions in the use of imprisonment. These include publishing official league tables of rates of imprisonment and setting up an inspectorate of courts in the Lord Chancellor's Department.

A *Scamell*, within a *Scamell* Rates of Imprisonment in Magistrates' Courts: England and Wales, 1980 (Radical Alternatives to Prison (Bristol) Group, 70 Novera Park, Newnham, Bristol).

Ben Nevis sees off the BBC

By Ronald Faux

The BBC retreated yesterday from the North face of Ben Nevis, storm-battered and wiser about the savage unpredictability of Scottish winter weather.

A group of ten volunteers for the programme that hoped to present the first live coverage of an ice climb on a cliff in Arctic conditions, was evacuated from the 4,000ft summit of the mountain after spending three nights there in freezing cold and 125 mph winds.

Mr Michael Bege, in charge of the production, said: "It would have been foolish to spend any longer there. The risk of exposure would have been too great. Only the top two inches of their tent pole was showing above the snow this morning."

Two pairs of climbers were to have been televised live climbing 1,000ft long routes on the North face, which has been the scene of a number of fatal accidents recently.

"We were within an ace of everything working splendidly for the first outside broadcast in the world from such a position and then on Friday the weather changed," Mr Bege said.

On Saturday the technological triumph resulted in the coldest interview for some time. It was on the summit of Ben Nevis as freezing mist blasted around the figures of a Royal Marine freezing a hole in the snow and an interviewer who so far forgot himself as to ask cheerfully how life was treating him in the Army.

That faux pas was plucked from his lips, shot down the mountain to a control van, projected to a satellite soaring through space off West Africa, bounced back to Cornwall in the television network.

The BBC yesterday denied that the foray onto the North face had cost £150,000 even though it had involved the hire of two helicopters, about 80 technicians and climbing specialists and a band of local Sherpas to help ferry equipment into position.

Neither was everything a total loss. A French skier descending the North Face four days ago in practice for the "live" attempt at the weekend had been filmed. On top of that there was enough material of the BBC preparing to televise the ice climb that never happened to make "a very interesting documentary".

Times management extends notices

By Donald Macintyre and Hugh Noyes

Management at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* yesterday agreed to suspend for five days the compulsory notices to 210 clerical employees to allow negotiations with their union representatives to continue.

The concession means that the notices will now be due to run out five days later than originally planned. In the case of the first notices, which had been due to run out in a week's time, expiry would now be midnight, March 14.

Management are not now expected to announce before tomorrow the numbers of staff who responded to Mr Rupert Murdoch's fresh call for applicants for voluntary redundancy under the company scheme. Mr Murdoch has suggested that if enough acceptable applicants come forward, the compulsory notices will be withdrawn.

Mr Arthur Britten, corporate relations director of News International, said last night that the decision to suspend the notices for a limited period had been "a gesture to lend a more helpful atmosphere to the talks."

Mr Murdoch's announcement three weeks ago that he wanted a reduction of 600 full-time jobs. The company has also been seeking a reduction of up to 900 part-time shifts.

Earlier in the Commons Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said that if *The Times* was to continue as a major journalistic force, it would have to do so on an economic basis. Both sides of the House would wish the news paper to continue, he added, but he did not agree with a Labour MP who suggested that events since Mr Murdoch took over seemed to justify some of the fears expressed at that time.

Mr Biffen, who was answering a question from Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Haringey, Tottenham, about infringement of editorial independence at *The Sunday Times*, said that it was the independent national directors to consider allegations that editorial independence had been infringed.

Mr Atkinson then asked Mr Biffen to agree, in connection with the company's articles of association and the newspaper's titles, that Mr Murdoch had tried to find a way around the original agreement and that he got caught. If Mr Biffen had his time over again would he not have designed the articles very differently from those now standing and

Rail roster issue for tribunal as talks fail

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Lord McCarthy's arbitration tribunal will have to pass final judgment on the controversial issue of flexible rostering on the railways after negotiations broke down yesterday between British Rail and its three unions.

BR insisted that new rostering systems should include the elimination of the guaranteed eight-hour day for train drivers, which has existed since 1915, but the footplate men's union objected and opted to go to the tribunal.

The tribunal will hear evidence by March 19 at the latest on the rostering dispute, which was the cause of the six weeks of strikes by members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF).

The tribunal results will not be binding. Mr Raymond Buckton, ASLEF general secretary, said he had been supported in his request that the findings not be binding by the National Union of Railwaymen.

However, Mr Russell Tuck, senior assistant general secretary of the NUR, said it was obvious the findings could not be binding as all parties could not agree.

As the meeting between BR and the unions started about 3.30 ASLEF and NUR members from the King's Cross terminal in London stormed British Rail's headquarters at Euston. During the mêlée, involving the demonstrators and BR security staff, a receptionist was hurt.

Mr Buckton said after the 60-minute meeting that as far as his members were concerned elimination of the eight-hour day was "a very great basic principle" to which they were opposed. He was prepared to negotiate with BR on proposals to introduce flexibility around the eight-hour day.

During the negotiations yesterday British Rail asked for the hearing at Lord McCarthy's Railway Staffs National Tribunal to be binding, and Mr Buckton, when asked reasons for not agreeing to the findings being binding, said: "It is my business, not yours."

M15 link in Iran plot case denied

A senior officer of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad yesterday dismissed claims that M15 was behind the kidnapping of three Iranian diplomats in a plot to defraud the Iranian Government in a £26m bogus arms deal.

Detective Chief Inspector Derek Todd was making renewed objections to bail the case of Benjamin Nodjomi, a wealthy Iranian company director and a former member of Savak, the Shah's secret police, who was charged in connection with the alleged kidnapping.

At the hearing at Mylebone Magistrates' Court it has been alleged the plot was to supply the Iranians with 30 crates of tin instead of the 3,000 tin canisters for which the diplomats were negotiating, for use in their war against Iraq.

Mr Todd told Mr Brian Canham, the magistrate, that Mr Nodjomi had claimed in open court that the whole matter had been set up by British intelligence "through an army major called Ross."

Witnesses had now identified the "so-called Major Ross" who had since been arrested and charged and who turned out to be an imposter. "There is no suggestion whatsoever that British intelligence had been involved, and yet by what Mr Nodjomi said, serious embarrassment could have been caused to the British Government," Mr Todd said.

But despite the police objections, Mr Nodjomi, aged 36, of the Water Gardens, Burghley Park, Leamington Spa, was further remanded until March 29 on bail totalling £105,000 with stringent passport and other conditions after an application by Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, counsel for Mr Nodjomi.

Mr Nodjomi said to be a member of the Iranian Freedom Movement, which aims to topple Ayatollah Khomeini, is charged with plotting between June and September 1979 with Mr Spiridon Kocov, an American, and Herr Kurt Klinker, a German, to defraud Iran's Ministry of Defence out of \$52,060,000.

Mr Nodjomi's same charge are under a Cyprus restaurant, aged 33, of Waterford Road, Bromley Road, Catford, Leslie Pitts, a company director, aged 43, of Herne Hill, south-east London, and Siliers Moser, a Swiss-born engineer, aged 47, of Wynch House, King's Road, Chelsea.

Mr Arif, Mr Nodjomi and four Britons are further charged with assaulting Mr Abbasheh Behzadi, and Mr Mahmoud Sabahat, both Iranian diplomats, and Mr Hassem Moghams, a banker. They are also said to have unlawfully and injuriously imprisoned them against their will at Mr Nodjomi's and another Water Gardens for six days to last October 16.

Mr Arif was remanded in custody for eight days. The six others were granted bail totalling £44,000 to appear with Mr Nodjomi on March 29.

The four accused Britons are Richard Pate, accountant, engineer, aged 45, of Drayton Way, Kenton, Middlesbrough, a chauffeur, aged 40, of Queen Mary Road, Upper Norwood, and Ronald White, aged 45 and unemployed of Toland Close, Farnborough, Hampshire, and his brother William White, a stable worker, aged 43, of Ashbury Road, Morden, Surrey.

Science report
A flaring star reveals a secret of the Sun

By the Staff of "Nature"

A remarkable exercise in international collaboration between astronomical observatories seems conclusively to have shown that flares like those seen on the surface of the Sun also occur on other stars.

The conclusion is important, chiefly because it helps to place the Sun itself among the class of stars long known to exhibit sharp outbursts of activity, but the organisational feat of coordinating seven optical and seven radio telescopes with observations made from the Einstein X-ray satellite will be a landmark in observational astronomy.

The star on which flares resembling those on the Sun have now been identified is known as YZ Canis Minoris, known to be a dwarf star which nevertheless has a mass which is a substantial fraction of that of the Sun.

The 14-ground-based telescopes and the Einstein satellite were all pointed at the star for periods of five hours on each of three consecutive days, October 23-25, 1979.

The flare whose characteristics most closely resemble those of a solar flare seems to have occurred early during the first observation period.

The flare concerned seems to have lasted for a little less than 10 minutes. The outburst on the star was recorded by the X-ray detectors on the Einstein satellite, by the optical telescopes in the United States at the Cloudcroft and McGraw-Hill observatories and by a radio-interferometer at Jodrell Bank.

As with flares on the surface of the Sun, the output of visible energy from YZ Canis Minoris seems to have risen very rapidly to its peak but then to have decayed more slowly over the succeeding 10 minutes. The X-ray emission characteristically lagged behind that put out from the star in the optical region, while the burst of radio energy lagged behind the visible flare by a full 17 minutes.

The 31 authors of the research including Sir Bernard Lovell, say that these characteristics resemble those of the more familiar (because more easily observed) flares on the surface of the Sun. From their estimate of the energy put out during the outburst, they calculate that temperature of the flare must have reached a maximum of 20 million degrees, comparable with the temperature reached at the peak of solar flares sufficient to account for the generation of X-rays in detectable amounts.

While the new observations show that flares like those seen on the Sun occur on other stars, in themselves they do little to resolve the continuing uncertainty about the origins of these spectacular phenomena, as a result of which jumps of glowing material may be thrown up for tens of millions of miles.

Source: *Astrophysical Journal*, vol 252, p 239, January 1, 1982.
© Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

NEAR-BLIND DRIVER SPARED JAIL

Frederick Fisher, a father of five, was yesterday granted unconditional bail by magistrates at York so that he could spend the last few weeks of his sighted life in freedom with his family.

The magistrates were told that Fisher, a former lorry driver, aged 32, of Middleham Avenue, York, who admitted 26 motoring offences, theft and fraud, suffered from an incurable eye disease.

Mr Trevor Cox, for Fisher, asked the magistrates to spare him from living with his fading eyesight "in the gloom of a prison cell."

Mr Cox told the bench: "In a few weeks Fisher will be completely blind. It will be wrong to deprive this man of his liberty now when his eyesight is failing so rapidly."

Mr Cox told the court how Fisher committed the offences, including driving while disqualified, and described him as a man obsessed by motor vehicles.

The magistrates adjourned sentence on 12 of the offences and committed Fisher to crown court for sentence on the other 14.

CORRECTION

A report on February 25, "Intimidation row at Times Newspapers", stated incorrectly that a branch of the National Society of Operative Printers (NOSP) had said that its members, Miss Mary Fokary, should be "branded or disciplined" after publicly challenging union policy on redundancy notices. The report should have attributed the statement to a NOSP clerical chapel (office branch) committee member, Mrs Ann Fokary, who was also a secretary at Times Books, a leading disciplinary action.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$2.25, Bahrain 0.50, Canada \$2.50, Denmark 1.25, France 1.50, Germany 1.50, Greece 1.50, Hong Kong 1.50, India 1.50, Italy 1.50, Japan 1.50, Korea 1.50, Kuwait 1.50, Lebanon 1.50, Libya 1.50, Luxembourg 1.50, Malaysia 1.50, Mexico 1.50, Monaco 1.50, Netherlands 1.50, New Zealand 1.50, Norway 1.50, Oman 1.50, Pakistan 1.50, Peru 1.50, Portugal 1.50, Qatar 1.50, Saudi Arabia 1.50, Singapore 1.50, South Africa 1.50, Spain 1.50, Sweden 1.50, Switzerland 1.50, Taiwan 1.50, Thailand 1.50, Turkey 1.50, U.A.E. 1.50, U.K. 1.50, U.S.A. 1.50, Venezuela 1.50.

Uneasy

John Charles
Liverpool

There was an "uneasy" atmosphere at the funeral of the late Mr. John Charles, who died of cancer, on Monday. The funeral was held at the Liverpool City Hall, and was attended by a large number of people. The atmosphere was described as "uneasy" by some of those present.

Mr. Charles was a well-known figure in Liverpool, and his death was a great loss to the city. The funeral was a solemn affair, and many people were moved by the service.

The atmosphere at the funeral was described as "uneasy" by some of those present. This was due to the fact that Mr. Charles was a well-known figure in Liverpool, and his death was a great loss to the city.

The funeral was a solemn affair, and many people were moved by the service. The atmosphere was described as "uneasy" by some of those present.

Jail death jury told of wall of silence

From Arthur Osman, Leicester

Medical evidence on the death of Mr Barry Prosser in Winson Green prison, Birmingham, would suggest that it was probably the work of two or three people, Mr Douglas Draycott, QC, said yesterday opening the Crown case against three prison officers at Leicester Crown Court.

Mr Draycott told the jury: "Around the walls of Winson Green has grown up another wall—a wall of silence. You will have to make the best you can of the evidence that is put before you."

The accused men, appearing on a bill of indictment pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Prosser. They are: Melvin Jackson, aged 32, Eric Smith, aged 32, and Howard Price, aged 25, who worked in the hospital administration wing at the prison.

Mr Prosser, of Sedgely, West Midlands, was a self-employed carpenter, married with two children. He suffered from mental illness, said from 1970 onwards received periodic hospital treatment. In March, 1979, he was put on probation for three years at Dudley for causing criminal damage, and he received psychiatric treatment as an in-patient for three months.

Mr Draycott said: "He appears to have been a very nice person, friendly, and a good workman. Physically, he was perfectly well, but from time to time his mental condition of hypomania came to the surface. Hypomania was a condition of over-activity, over-activity, a general sense of well-being, extreme cheerfulness at one time yet very low at another."

Mr Prosser was a 6ft 3in 14½ stone man and Draycott said he got himself into trouble from time to time. He enjoyed a pint of beer, but an excessive amount of drink had an adverse effect on him at a time when he was taking sedative drug for his condition.

His violence was not directed at people but at things.

In August, 1980, he was going through one of his difficult periods and his wife took the two children to her father's home near by. At 11 o'clock one night, Mr Prosser went there and started

banging and shouting and was arrested and later remanded to prison, where he was put in a cell with other prisoners. There was a disturbance on August 12 and he was moved to a "stripped" cell in the hospital wing.

On August 18, when he received the injuries from which he died, he was banging, singing, shouting and creating a lot of noise.

The jury at that point was shown a series of photographs and Mr Draycott said the cause of death was by a heavy weight dropping on to the upper abdomen which burst the stomach and oesophagus. Mr Prosser had been lying on his back and the Crown suggested that a heavy man had dropped on his knees with the whole of his weight on to Mr Prosser. There were other injuries delivered with as much force.

Mr Draycott continued: "If it is going to be suggested that this was suicide by Mr Prosser, or that for some reason he had inflicted these injuries on himself, our expert evidence is that the number of these injuries could not have been self-inflicted."

Mr Draycott said that the only three officers on duty who could have done this to Mr Prosser were the three accused. It was fair to say that there was no intention to kill him. "It may well be, and probably is, that they went further than they intended to."

Mr Prosser had been beaten up. He was not unintelligent and it was likely he would complain during the governor's rounds. "We say that fairly quickly a cover up was started, the first step being to make and entry in the hospital records. It had been noted 'This man has gone completely berserk, shouting and screaming and banging... very, very disturbed... hallucinating plus. He has been acting this way for three hours.' Another notation read: 'Persistent screaming and shouting from 5 pm to 8 pm; unresponsive and unpredictable.'"

The hearing continues today and later this week the jury will visit the prison to see Prosser's cell.

Heseltine seeks more building by councils

From Ronald Kershaw, Wakefield

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that local authorities should provide work through capital construction programmes in the coming financial year. Local authorities had under-spent by some £400m, on housing this year, and the problem was getting them to spend it effectively and quickly, he said.

Mr Heseltine had been attending a regional seminar on the rate support grant at Wakefield town hall. Focused on underspending, he said: "The best indications I have so far, are that something like £400m in housing capital receipts are likely to be under-spent in the current year, and perhaps another £300m of other capital receipts."

"This partially reflects the success of the sale of council houses and partially the determination of local authorities to look at assets they have been sitting on without cashing them, and getting the cash they can use." Councils were now doing this on a bigger scale, but they had not anticipated their own success.

The cash, he said, was within the Government's public expenditure programme. Asked if it had to be spent this year he said: "They can carry it forward at individual authority levels; I have to be concerned it doesn't prejudice the overall national cash limits next year."

Mr Heseltine added: "In the forthcoming year, we are likely to see significant levels of capital receipts work off and I very much hope local authorities will use the freedom they have got in order to provide work in capital construction programmes."

County seeks legal advice on rate rise

The Labour-controlled Merseyside County Council is to seek legal opinion on the levels of permissible expenditure before fixing the rate for this coming year. (Our Liverpool Correspondent writes.)

The budget meeting of the policy committee was unexpectedly adjourned after an hour yesterday to enable that course to be adopted, despite strong objections from Conservative and Liberal councillors.



Daffodils for Dylan Thomas: Watched by Mrs Thomas-Ellis, the grandchildren lay a tribute

A big day for Dylan and St David

By Tony Samstag

Dylan Thomas may have been dead and buried for the better part of 30 years, but the old reprobate can still draw the crowds. They packed Westminster Abbey in their hundreds yesterday, St David's Day, for an event as improbable as it had been long awaited: the unveiling and dedication of a memorial plaque in Poets' Corner to the patron saint of dissolution himself.

There it lay in all its newly chiselled splendour, three hundredweight of Penryn green slate flanked by Lord Byron and George Eliot, with Henry James and Gerard Manley Hopkins near neighbours. Mrs Aeronwy Thomas-Ellis, the poet's daughter, who lives in Surrey now, commended the memorial stone into the safe custody of the abbey as flashbulbs popped, television cameras jockeyed for

position, and a distinctly secular air of unease crept over the proceedings.

The scriptures are fairly explicit about the likely consequences of pursuing commercial activities in the temple of God. Media events, perhaps, are less clearcut. The bard himself, it is fairly safe to assume, would have burned and raved, less at the incongruity of the proceedings than at the stifling respectability of it all.

Wreaths and banks of daffodils were laid on and around the plaque, and many of the worshippers wore single blooms in their lapels.

Perhaps 30 members of the Thomas clan were among the congregation: "We had to go out and find them," Mrs Thomas-Ellis said. Her son, Hugh, aged

seven, and another grandchild, Jemima Thomas, aged 15, were present at the unveiling; Hannah Thomas-Ellis, aged three, suffered an acute attack of stage fright at the last minute and cried off.

When discussing the master, words fail us ordinary mortals; and we tend to resort to the sacred text or to name-dropping. Chaucer, Blake and Yeats reared their venerable heads, but it was the readings, of Fern Hill and Poem in October, that carried the day.

The Rev. Alan Luff, however, Precentor and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, may have spoken more appropriately than he knew when he read from the Book of Revelation on the "bitter-sweet calling of one who is to see strange visions and to write them down for his people".

Testing time for Welsh TV channel

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Amid a blaze of daffodils and a bucketful of optimism the Welsh-language Channel Four television was officially baptised in Cardiff yesterday.

A highly professional launch offered an exciting glimpse of what the channel will offer. Criticism that the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority has powers of patronage "as great as the Medicis and Borgias" was brushed aside.

Conceived from idealism and born from political duplicity the channel will put to the test the claim that on its shoulders rests the future of the declining Welsh language.

After promising the service in its manifesto the Government changed its mind only to think again in the face of a campaign of widespread civil disobedience when thousands of people said they would not pay their television licence fees.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, was ambushed while driving to his home in Pembroke-shire in England. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said that intimidation would never win the day after his constituency offices had been occupied by Welsh language protesters.

But in the end, faced with the threat of a vote to death by Mr Gwynor Evans, former president of Plaid Cymru, the Government conceded its promise, admitting that it could not carry with it the weight of public opinion.

Mr Rhodri Williams, a former chairman of the Welsh Language Society, who was present at the launch yesterday, said he was impressed by the enthusiasm and professionalism of the people who will be responsible for the new service, which will begin transmission in November.

Mr Owen Edwards, director of the new authority, which will be known as S4C. (Sianel Pedwar Cymru) said: "We believe that the new channel will help to end the division of languages and communities in Wales."

"It is a channel for Wales in all senses."

Ultimately the viewers will decide whether the service succeeds for the government, still smarting over its first demonstration "U-turn", has estimated that if it does not succeed within three years it will be scrapped.

Violence in schools: 1

Disruptive pupils in a minority

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Incidents like those leading to the recent closure of the Toxteth primary school, which hit the headlines, tend to give a false impression of the scale of violence in our schools.

The most recent national survey of school discipline was that carried out by the HM Inspector for Schools (HMI) and included in their report on secondary schools two years ago.

That indicated that hostility to teachers was the "least of the schools' worries". Only seven of the 284 included in the survey described it as a serious problem. Violence between pupils was thought to be serious in only one school, and a "considerable worry" in seven.

The majority reported, somewhat surprisingly, that they had no disruptive pupils at all. Just over a third admitted they had some, but

only one in three of those put their number at ten or more. Vandalism was said to be a serious problem in only 4 per cent of schools.

The findings helped to confirm the Schools Inspectors' own view that the very great majority of schools were orderly, hard-working and free from any serious problems. And the indications are that, if anything, the situation has improved since then.

The relatively small amount of violence that does go on is not negligible, however. Figures compiled by the teachers' unions suggest that they are assaulted by pupils at a rate of about three a week. The most recent estimate of vandalism in schools, by the Government's "think tank" in 1979, put the cost at around £15m a year.

Nearly 2,000 schools were

the victims of suspected arson in 1979, the latest year for which figures are available, though it is not known how many of those were started by pupils.

Many teachers argue that they need the ultimate sanction of corporal punishment as a means of controlling violence in schools. However, research evidence suggests that such punishment might actually increase vandalism and other forms of delinquency, though no causal connection has been demonstrated between the two.

A study of corporal punishment in 12 secondary schools, published by the Scottish Council for Research in Education last November, found no detectable differences in the general standards of behaviour in any school where corporal punishment had been abolished, and those in compar-

able schools where it was still used.

The notable differences in standards were between teachers within a school, irrespective of whether corporal punishment was used, the research team said. The schools which had recently abolished corporal punishment seemed to benefit from having had to rethink their whole disciplinary systems.

Those opposed to corporal punishment point out not only that Britain is the only country in eastern or western Europe where it is still sanctioned — the Irish Republic abolished it last month — but that it has been in all British institutions other than schools, including borstals, detention centres, prisons and the armed forces, in some of which discipline might be thought harder to maintain.

'Uneasy' peace as St Saviour's returns

From John Chartres, Liverpool

There was an "uneasy and irrational atmosphere" at St Saviour's Church of England school in Toxteth, Liverpool, yesterday, Mr Arnold Cowman, the acting head teacher said at the end of his first day there. It was an atmosphere which probably only a professional teacher would understand, he added.

All but seven of the 110 five to 11 year olds pupils were in school on time yesterday as St Saviour's reopened after an extended two-week half-term following disturbances.

Mr Cowman said that at one stage in the day a number of empty beer cans had been thrown into the playground by people outside. The children, Mr Cowman said, had "made sport" with the cans.

He said he was looking forward to meeting parents later in the evening and saw the future of the school as a cooperative task between himself, teachers, parents and pupils.

He had spent his first day trying to get to know his pupils and to speak to them personally when possible "in a gentle sort of way". He said he had made himself "evident" but not in any systematic manner. Complaints against cameras were again made by men claiming to be members of the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, when the school closed and pupils left. Earlier Mr Kenneth An-



Mr Cowman: Getting to know his pupils.

cliffe, Liverpool's director of education, had disagreed with the Prime Minister over her apparent allocation of blame onto parents for the recent disturbances at the school.

At a morning news conference he said that his reading of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's comments in the Commons was that she was placing all the blame on a lack of parental control.

After declaring that there would be no "witch hunts", no expulsions, and no "clean slates", Mr Antcliffe said it would be unproductive and would do no good to try to weigh out little parcels of blame. His own authority, the school governors, the staff, and the parents all shared in

blame; but the constructive thing to do was to make a fresh start.

He suggested that the Prime Minister's advisers might have been mistaken in the information they supplied her with before her references to the school in the House last Tuesday.

Mr Cowman greeted pupils yesterday and set about imposing what was described by Mr Anthony Smith, chief inspector of schools on Merseyside, as "discipline without a witch hunt". A ten point plan was announced for the school's future.

The only outward incidents occurred when a party of five men approached photographers outside the school. Two photographers handed over rolls of unprocessed film and a radio reporter surrendered a tape recording.

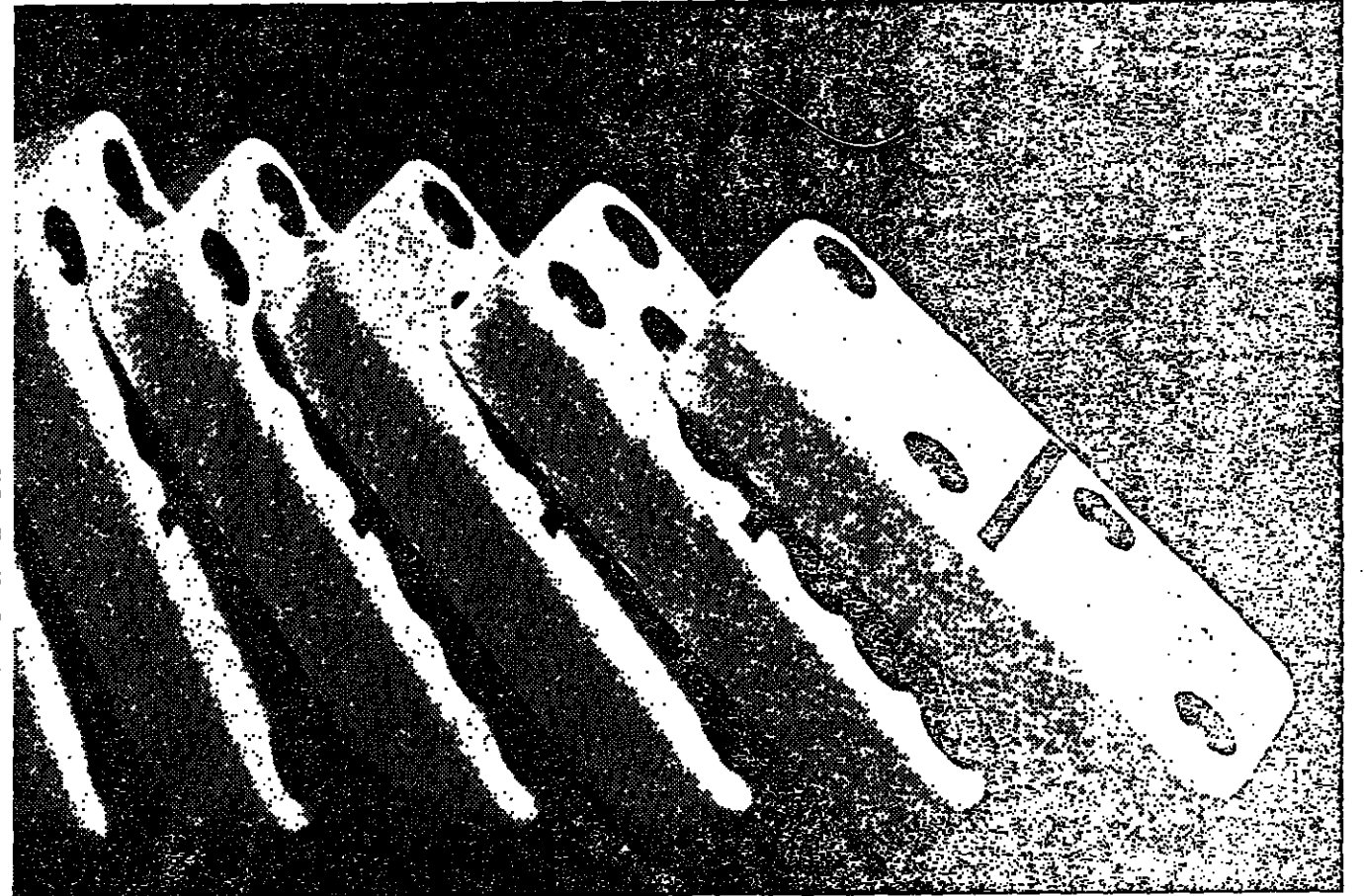
Journalists who had been invited to a press conference at 9am were asked to move into the building several minutes earlier and at its conclusion an official of Liverpool city's public relations department asked them to drive away as quickly as possible otherwise he could not answer for possible consequences.

Uniformed members of Liverpool education authority's security department were on duty outside the school and Mr Antcliffe said they would be there for as long as it was necessary to ensure the children's safety. Mr Leonard Tyrer, a Liver-

pool city councillor and chairman of the school board of governors, said accounts of damage to the buildings and teachers' cars, threats to staff and protection rackets alleged to have been operated by older children against the younger, had "been blown up out of all proportion" when he had leaked the story "wanted his backside kicking".

The Rev Neville Black, one of the governors, disclosed that a four-hour meeting had taken place on the Thursday before news of the school's problems was first published, and that a strategy for dealing with those issues had been agreed. Mr Black suggested that the cost of damage to property only amounted to about £200.

The ten-point plan announced yesterday includes staff reinforcement, including three extra teachers from the city's reserve pool who were on duty yesterday extra supplies of books and stationery, valued at about £1,000, the availability of specialists and remedial teachers as a back-up, and the "enrichment" of the education at St Saviour's, which will include multi-cultural teaching. A scheme to help "latch-key" children in Toxteth has been dropped because of council cutbacks (Our Liverpool Correspondent writes). A disused school, earmarked for the "open house" project is to be sold because of severe financial restraints, Sir Trevor Jones, Liverpool council leader said yesterday.



WILL BRITAIN FALL FOR THE LINE THAT INSTABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA WOULDN'T AFFECT THE WEST?

South Africa is fully committed to a policy of stability, private enterprise and prosperity for all.

Naturally, this doesn't suit the plans of many Marxists.

They know that Britain and the West are heavily dependent on South Africa for important minerals like chrome, manganese, vanadium and platinum. They know these

materials are essential for making computers, machine tools, jet engines, gearboxes, TVs, drilling bits and defensive armaments. And they know there are no major alternative sources outside the communist bloc.

South Africa's enemies are confident that by creating instability in the Republic, they can cause disruption in the West.

South Africa

Further information can be obtained from The Director of Information, South African Embassy, South Africa House, London WC2N 5DP.

Benn aide wins key post on TGWU executive

By Our Labour Editor

Mr Wedgwood Benn's chief political lieutenant in the trade union movement was yesterday elected to the key post of chairman of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU).

In a convincing first ballot victory, Mr Walter Green- dale, a Hull docker, took 19 executive council votes against 12 for his more moderate rival, Mr Brian Nicholson, leader of the London dockworkers. A third candidate, Mr Dan Duffy, from Scotland, regarded as a leftwinger, picked up only four votes.

The election for chairman, which was expected to go to several ballots, gives a reasonably reliable indication of the political balance in the TGWU leadership. As a result of executive elections in recent months it is clear that the left now enjoys at least a 2-1 majority.

Mr Green-dale, aged 55, is a long-time socialist who was influential in last year's campaign to win trade union votes for the Benn candidacy to unseat Mr Denis Healey that failed only by a whisker.

His election seals for the next two critical years the political direction of the TGWU lay executive. And if precedent is followed he will be re-elected every two years, to enjoy a decade of authority.

It is also significant that Mr Green-dale, who is a member of the TUC general council, should have responsibility at a time when the balance of power has shifted away from the full-time leaders of the transport union to the rank-and-file members who make up its executive. But the left's success comes at a time of sharply declining TGWU membership.

The transport workers have lost an estimated 400,000 members over the last two years. Recent takeovers of the dyers and bleachers and agricultural workers will boost the union's membership by 110,000 to 1.8 million, far

short of the 2.1 million in the heyday of Mr Jack Jones.

How Mr Green-dale and the TGWU will fit into the current left-wing argument over whether Mr Benn should abandon his deputy leadership challenge is not yet clear.

Strong private pressures are at work to forestall another Benn challenge at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool in October. Leftwing union leaders have advised Mr Benn and his supporters to concentrate on policy issues in the run-up to the general election, rather than unsettling the Foot- Healey leadership.

Yorkshire miners boycott Gornley

Yorkshire miners are to boycott any functions held in honour of Mr Joseph Gornley, retiring president of the National Union of Mineworkers, because he urged members to accept the coal board's last wages offer in their ballot (Ronald Kershaw writes from Barnsley).

The Yorkshire area council yesterday passed a resolution condemning Mr Gornley for his action and instructing its members to boycott any functions on the boycott.

Mr Arthur Scargill, his successor, who bitterly attacked him at the time, said after yesterday's meeting that he felt the matter was off the agenda and over, but

Broadbent and Gornley branches had submitted the resolution and demanded it be dealt with.

Mr Scargill said it instructed the three NEC members from Yorkshire "not to attend any functions where the NEC or anybody else are going to say thank you to Mr Gornley". In answer to questions Mr Scargill said he had never opposed any resolution passed by his area council.

Earlier, a new hard line policy emerged in three resolutions the area council are to send to the union's

national conference at Inverness in July. The first calls for an amendment to the union's rule 43 to provide for a "simple majority" before industrial action is taken, replacing the 55 per cent requirement.

The second resolution calls for a £110 basic minimum wage for surface workers, with appropriate differentials for all other grades, amounting to a 26.5 per cent increase. It demands that the rates be sought in the next round of wage negotiations, and insists that negotiations are concluded before November 1 this year.

The resolution says: Unless the NEC meet this demand in full the NEC is instructed to call a special delegate conference to consider the position. If this conference rejects the coal board's offer the NEC be instructed to recommend in a ballot vote that they be given authority to take various forms of industrial action in pursuance of the claim.

The resolution further instructs the executive that if the board's offer is rejected at the special delegate conference it should impose an immediate overtime ban from the date of the conference.

A third resolution to the national conference calls on the union to start negotiations on an early retirement scheme for surface workers.

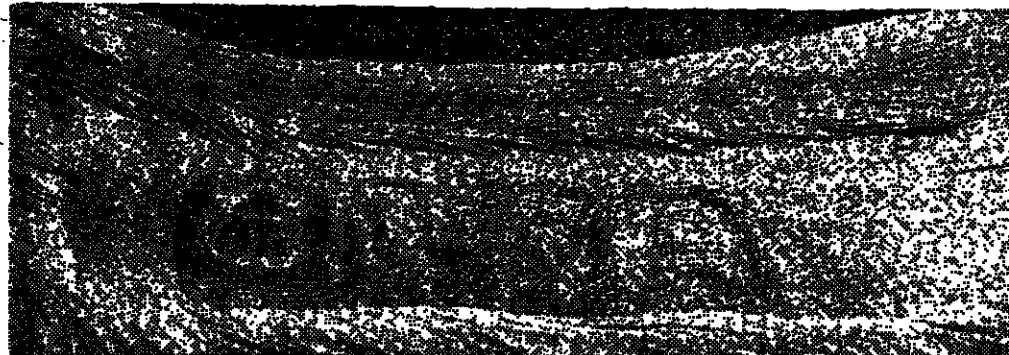
Again, if the union does not receive a satisfactory response a special delegate conference should consider industrial disruption including strike action.

Man shot in bank raid

A man was shot in the leg and another clubbed with a pickaxe handle as they tried to stop an armed bank raid in West London, yesterday. The raiders, carrying a rifle, a shotgun and a pistol, escaped with £50,000 from the National Westminster bank in Southall.



Modern science takes a hand in the fight against horse-thieves. Topo and Beauty are among 10,000 horses in Britain which have been freeze-marked with identification numbers in an attempt to deter thieves. Beauty's marking could clearly be seen yesterday at Modasa Stables, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire. Above, Topo receives its number.



Loophole fear in toxic waste controls

By David Nicholson-Lord

Government proposals to control imports of dangerous chemical waste leave a loophole which could allow waste to be abandoned in Britain, according to the Association of County Councils.

A series of controversies last year involving foreign waste led to fears that Britain was becoming a "toxic dustbin" for countries like The Netherlands and West Germany, which have more stringent environmental protection. After emergency meetings with local authorities, the Department of the Environment published its counter-proposals in December.

But, according to the counties, which are expected to release their evidence later this week, those proposals are inadequate because councils would still have insufficient warning of waste arriving in Britain.

Calls for the counties to be given new legislative powers to ban certain consignments, and for the Government to use its prohibition powers under the Control of Pollution Act, have also apparently been rejected. So too, the association says, has the proposal from the Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology that importers

should be required to take out insurance against bankruptcy.

That happened in the most notorious case last year, when 22,000 tonnes of phenolic and industrial solvent waste from The Netherlands "turned up" at British docks without adequate disposal arrangements. The importing company, Rifafield, shortly afterwards went bankrupt. Phenol, although said to be highly diluted in the consignment, is extremely poisonous and corrosive.

Nine months later, it remains in storage tanks at Humberstone and Southampton while proposals to dump

it at sea have drawn strong protests from Greenpeace, the international environmental group. Greenpeace has objected to British Petroleum, one of the "holding" firms, and also to the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to the Immingham Storage Company, which has another 8,220 tonnes of the Dutch waste, incineration and dumping at sea would leave only a soluble mist of hydrochloric acid. But Greenpeace says that defects in the maintenance and procedures of the ships employed might also produce clouds of DDT.

Health fee for foreign students is attacked

By Anabel Ferriman

Britain's 70,000 overseas students are going to provide £1m of the £6m which is to be raised from charging overseas visitors for health service care, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

Students on government grants would have their health insurance premiums paid for them, but others would have no help with the payments.

Mr Fowler was being questioned by the race relations and immigration sub-committee of the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee and faced hostile questions from the Labour members.

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, accused the Government of creating a potentially explosive situation by introducing a new charging system to raise £6m, which was "peanuts".

Mr Fowler said it was a "grotesque overstatement" to suggest it would create an explosive situation. He said £6m could pay the salaries of about 900 ward sisters.

He said the new procedures which were announced in Parliament last week and which will come into effect from October 1, would consist of a few simple initial questions to establish whether someone was normally resident in Britain, and only if it became clear that they were not, would they be subjected to more detailed questioning by a senior member of staff. No one would be required to produce a passport, though some people might choose to, and only very rarely would it be necessary to consult the Home Office to establish someone's liability.

Mr Lyon said: "It is precisely that fear which animates the black population."

More home news on page 23

Family conciliation scheme reprieved

By Frances Glibb

The Government is shortly to announce the setting up of a high-level committee of senior civil servants to monitor the value of family conciliation schemes which aim to resolve matrimonial disputes out of court, and determine what saving they contribute to public expenditure.

The decision, which comes after pressure from the Law Commission and the Law Society as well as other groups, means that the pioneer scheme, the Bristol Family Conciliation Service, which faced closure, has been temporarily reprieved.

The Government and local authority is to fund the scheme with an estimated £30,000 for a year, so that it may act as a sample service together with others for monitoring by the committee and the formulation of long-term government policy on conciliation.

The Bristol scheme was set up on a full-time basis in 1979 on a grant mainly from the Nuffield Foundation (due to run out this April) and helps couples in matrimonial disputes reach out of court settlements on such questions as custody of children, access, money and property.

Mrs Lisa Parkinson, organizer, said yesterday: "We are relieved that the service has been given the opportunity to continue for a further year and contribute to this review of the system of handling matrimonial cases and in particular matrimonial disputes."

'Private Eye' allegations 'hurtful' to Wilcox

Mr Desmond Wilcox, the television producer, told a High Court judge yesterday that allegations in *Private Eye* magazine that he had abused his position with the BBC to make money for himself were "extremely damaging and hurtful".

Mr Wilcox married to Esther Rantzen, hostess of the *That's Life* television programme, is suing *Private Eye* for damages for alleged libel in five articles published in 1975 when he headed the BBC's general features department.

The articles coincided with the showing of the BBC2 series *Explorers*, and the publication of a book of the series, written by Mr Wilcox.

Mr Anthony Hoolahan, QC, for Mr Wilcox, said: "The idea from the articles is that he set up the whole thing; prompted the TV series and organized himself as the author of the book with a view to making himself a very large amount of money out of it."

The articles also accused Mr Wilcox, who made £12,000 from the book, of knowingly and wrongfully infringing the copyright of the series scriptwriters.

But Mr Hoolahan said that in 1977 a group of scriptwriters received £54,000 damages from the BBC in a



Mr Desmond Wilcox

Mr Wilcox was not required to make any contribution to the damages or costs.

"The allegations are very far from the truth, and subjected him to a great deal of unjust and unfair criticism," Mr Hoolahan said. Mr Wilcox, of Chiswick Quay, west London, who worked for the BBC from 1965 until 1980, said he was "very disturbed and upset" at the *Private Eye* allegations.

Mr Wilcox is suing Pressdram Ltd and S W Litho (Printer) Ltd, publishers and printers of *Private Eye*, and Mr Richard Ingrams, its editor. The hearing continues

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Hospital buys water at Boots

Instead of replacing a disused water machine at a cost of £100,000, a London hospital is buying the water it needs from Boots at about the same cost over four months. St Thomas's Hospital, Southwark, south London, claims the needless expenditure is the result of Department of Health rules.

A spokesman for the 1,000-bed teaching hospital said it faced the bill because money was available in its revenue account for day-to-day running expenses but not in the capital account used to buy new equipment. He said that health authorities were allowed to transfer only one per cent of cash from the revenue account to the capital account in a financial year.

But a health department spokesman described the explanation for the waste as "very odd. In principle only one per cent can be transferred but we have arranged larger transfers for other hospitals."

Since the hospital's 10-year-old machine broke down in December £45,000 has been spent on disused water from Boots. The same amount is expected to be spent before a new machine arrives at the start of the next financial year.

Police hunt for widow's killer

Police in Hampshire were yesterday hunting the murderer of a widow aged 86. Mrs Annie Majors was found battered to death on Sunday in her flat which had been set ablaze in Ballard's Close, Southampton Estate, Basingstoke.

A post mortem carried out by Dr Peter Pullar, a Home Office pathologist, revealed that she had died from multiple injuries to the head.

Flu kills seven in home for aged

A influenza epidemic which swept through a Warwickshire old people's home killed seven residents and made 15 seriously ill. Four women and three men have died during the past few days at the council-run Tiddington Field home in Stratford on Avon.

Hooded raider

Police are hunting a man in his early 20s, wearing a parka with fur hood, who walked into Lloyds Bank in Shrewsbury, yesterday, held a pistol to a woman's neck and fled with £3,000.

Princess home

Princess Michael of Kent, who had a gall bladder operation last week, left King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, London, yesterday for her home at Kensington Palace.

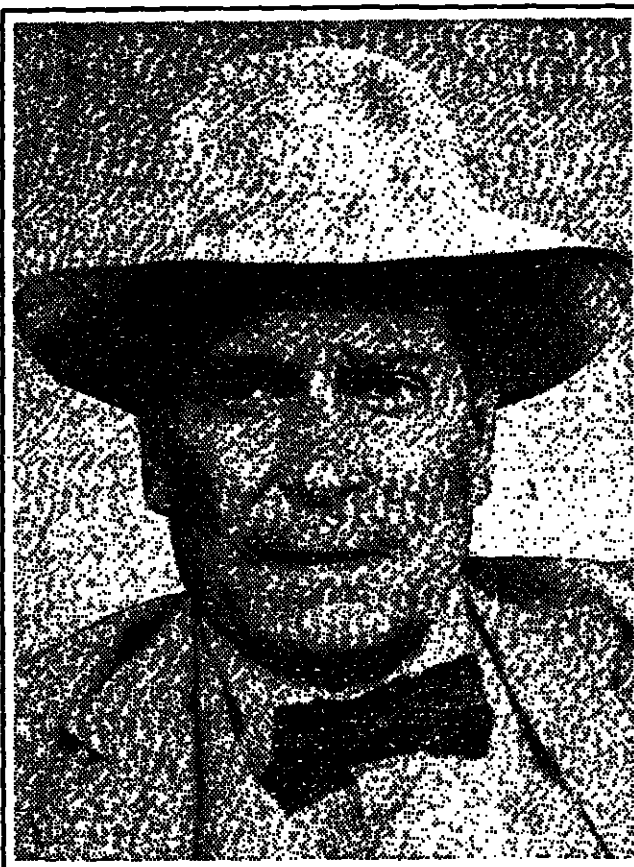
TONIGHT AT 9.00 LAURENCE OLIVIER AND ALAN BATES

IN JOHN MORTIMER'S

'A VOYAGE ROUND MY FATHER'

WITH JANE ASHER AND ELIZABETH SELLARS.

A FILM FOR TELEVISION, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY ALVIN RAKOFF



"Be my eyes. Paint me the picture..."

"I was still a boy when my father was struck blind: a blindness which he and the rest of my family studiously ignored. My father continued his practise as a barrister, dwelling with words in the divorce courts, fixing witnesses with his unseeing eyes. Angry, eccentric, he went his own way..."



LONDON'S WEEKEND TV

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Palestinian shot dead in Madrid

Madrid. — A Palestinian was shot dead in Madrid yesterday and the Palestine Liberation Organization blamed the killing on Mossad, the Israeli secret service. A man, Nabil Arakli Wadi, aged 34, from Beirut, was shot in the street near his home and shot him twice in the back of the head, police said. Mr Wadi was said to have returned to Madrid from Beirut several days ago on an Iraqi passport. He was born in Haifa, had lived in Spain since 1972 and studied pharmacy in Salamanca, the Spanish news agency said.

Jet and van in runway collision

Frankfurt. — An airport van driver escaped with minor injuries when his vehicle was involved in a runway collision with a barely airborne jumbo jet, Frankfurt airport officials said. The Lufthansa airliner, bound for San Francisco, had 247 passengers, lost two undercarriage covers and sustained a 10-yard scratch along the rear fuselage. The van was a write-off.

TUC seeks action on Turkey

British trade union leaders have asked Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, to deny all assistance to the authorities in Ankara "so as to isolate the Turkish military regime until trade union freedoms are restored" (Paul Routledge writes).

The TUC International Committee deplored the arrest of Mr Orhan Apaydin, principal defence lawyer for 52 Turkish trade union leaders, as another serious blow to free trade unionism in Turkey.

Portugal hit by rail strike

Lisbon. — A new strike brought Portugal's state railway system virtually to a halt for two weeks after the Government ended a series of city-line transport stoppages by granting inflationary pay rises.

The engine drivers' union started the first of what it says will be a series of five 24-hour strikes between now and March 9 over a demand for increased fringe benefits.

Red Brigades plot foiled

Naples. — A Red Brigades plan to launch an attack by helicopter against Milan's San Vittore Prison was foiled at the last minute with the arrest of 17 terrorists, the public prosecutor's office said.

The announcement said that the police had also uncovered nine Red Brigades hide-outs.

Seal ships blessed

St John's Newfoundland. Christian clergymen blessed six ships and their crews who will take part in Canada's controversial annual seal hunt. About 1,000 people attended an interdenominational service here.

Schmidt defends ministers in bribes scandal

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 1

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today stood firmly by two senior ministers and his top aide, under investigation in an alleged bribery and tax evasion affair which has shaken the already strained Government.

The Chancellor and the Cabinet today discussed the implications of the formal investigation announced by the Bonn Public Prosecutor against nine prominent figures in politics and industry, including Count Otto Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, Herr Hans Matthöfer, the Finance Minister, and Herr Manfred Lahnstein, the head of the Chancellery.

The three are suspected of *Vorteilnahme*, which implies that they may have accepted bribes for helping firms to avoid paying taxes. After the meeting, Herr Karsten, the Government's spokesman, read a statement saying the two ministers and Count Lambsdorff had emphatically denied the allegations and were convinced their names would be cleared.

The Chancellor had complete confidence in all three and saw on reason to suspend or remove them from their posts. They had demanded that the public prosecutor hear their immediate and inform them of the details of the suspicions against them. They complained that this had so far been refused.

The Government also urged the prosecutor's office to conduct the investigations as quickly as possible so that the matter could be cleared up rapidly.

This urgency is understandable since the stigma of corruption, whether founded or not, is extremely damaging here, particularly in a year when there are four important state elections.

It will take weeks, perhaps months, before the prosecutor's office decides whether the investigations are baseless or whether to send those concerned for trial. If charges are raised against

them, the two ministers and Herr Lahnstein could be expected to resign.

President Carstens, in an apparent attempt to put the affair into perspective, said in an interview today that it was wrong to speak of a crisis or a German Watergate. "One should not over-estimate these things," he said. "The people have confidence in our state and our parties."

The investigations came on top of a long series of troubles for Herr Schmidt, including dissent within the two coalition parties and deep differences between them on important policies. Curiously, these investigations have the advantage — since Herr Matthöfer is a Social Democrat and Count Lambsdorff a Free Democrat — of waiting them in their problems.

Criticism from the opposition is muted, for members of the Christian Democrat Party are also among the nine under investigation.

The names of the two ministers have been linked in the West German press for some time with investigations into alleged tax evasion by the three main parties in their fund-raising activities. It has long been passively accepted that donors — particularly large firms — are encouraged to donate tax-deductible funds to charitable organisations which pass them to organisations abroad. They are then returned to the parties' coffers at home.

An agreement among the parties on an amnesty for such offenders was dropped after a public outcry. President Carstens is expected soon to nominate a commission to find legal ways the parties can make up for this lucrative source of income.

Until now the possible charges were only likely to have been tax evasion, regarded here as a peccadillo, especially if it is in the parties' cause. It came as a shock to the Bonn political world when it became clear that the investigations are baseless or whether to send those concerned for trial. If charges are raised against

Nkomo link with Walls claimed by Mugabe

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, March 1

A senior Zimbabwe minister alleged yesterday that Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, the former Army commander, had arranged meetings between South African military officers and Mr Joshua Nkomo in Zimbabwe soon after independence.

Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said that Mr Nkomo had asked General Walls to set up the meetings with the intention of obtaining South African help to overthrow Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

The minister claimed that the meetings had taken place at General Walls's Salisbury home. The general was also alleged to be recruiting groups of dissident Zimbabweans to carry out sabotage operations here.

He was barred from Zimbabwe after admitting in a BBC television interview that he had considered leading a military coup against Mr Mugabe.

Poland: Disillusion grows

Glemp joins swing against Jaruzelski

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 1

Fresh evidence of the hardening of Poland's Roman Catholic Church towards the country's martial law authorities has emerged from a conversation between Archbishop Józef Glemp, the Polish Primate, and Western diplomats.

This conversation, held soon after his return from talks with the Pope, reveals that the Primate expects increasingly sharp treatment of the Church and individual priests by the hardline factions in the Communist Party. The Church has publicly denied this but the Primate also said that he believed that lists of priests eligible for arrest had been drawn up.

The Primate has usually urged his bishops — some of whom have wanted a much tougher line against the Government — to remember that General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister and party leader, is a moderate. However, he appears to have changed his opinion since his visit to Rome.

There is an earlier qualification that does not fit him any more, the minutes quote the Primate as saying. Archbishop Glemp still thinks it is essential that General Jaruzelski continues in power and describes him as the last chance for Poland.

The Primate has also changed his view of committees of national liberation, local consultative groups that are trying to bolster the power of the party in the provinces by admitting non-party members with local expertise. He tacitly praised

these committees in a sermon on January 24 but in his recent meeting with diplomats explicitly distanced himself. Some of his attitudes seem to be in line with thinking he is worried about individual priests who distribute anti-state documents and are worried about the effect of American sanctions on food supplies in Poland. "If you fight for freedom with too much enthusiasm you run the risk of losing it," he said, drawing parallels between American policies of Poland and the incautious attitudes of some of the radicals in Solidarity, the suspended trade union organisation.

The main message that comes through is of disillusionment with the Government, which despite its commitment to dialogue was making no progress. "It would be wrong to talk about dialogue having taken place since December 13 (the day that martial law was declared)," the Primate is quoted as saying.

Archbishop Glemp has drawn much closer to the main caucus of Poland's bishops, who have consistently advocated strict criticism of the martial law authorities. In a communiqué read from Polish pulpits on Sunday, the bishops drove home their message calling for genuine dialogue with the Government.

The question puzzling diplomats is whether this hardening of the Primate's



Watchful eye: Archbishop Glemp preaching in Warsaw on Sunday.

position is the direct result of his talks with the Pope or of pressure from his bishops, or external factors such as coldness on the part of the Government.

Diplomats in Warsaw discount the possibility of the Pope having urged a tougher position. In talks in Rome shortly after his meetings with the Pope, the Primate seemed to be still his old moderate self, mildly optimistic that a solution could be found to the Polish crisis within the current framework. In public, the Primate emphasizes conciliation and

On target for Guatemalan poll



Patrolling the Pan-American highway: With political killings now running at more than 400 a month, Guatemala shows signs of equaling El Salvador in the ferocity of its internal struggles. Although American military aid was banned in 1977 because of human rights

abuses, the Guatemalan Army — blamed for most of the killings — continues to move its soldiers in American lorries and Jeeps. Such vehicles essential to counter-insurgency, have been removed from the embargo list. With elections due next Sunday, kidnappings,

massacres and attacks are increasing, and the recent unification of four main guerrilla groups is likely to intensify the violence. The Reagan Administration is seeking to resume military shipments to Guatemala, and \$250,000 has been earmarked for military training

Treurnicht to join opposition

From Michael Morrisby, Johannesburg, March 1

The split in South Africa's ruling National Party became certain today with a clear signal from Dr Andries Treurnicht, the party's high priest of apartheid, that he will not recant and that he will therefore be going into this rank of the opposition with his band of reformers.

Speaking last night after being defeated by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, in a crucial party vote, Dr Treurnicht said: "I made it quite clear at Saturday's meeting that if they insisted on retaining their unqualified support for the Prime Minister's interpretation of policy, I was finished and there would be no turning back."

The expulsion of Dr Treurnicht and his fellow rebels from the National Party at Wednesday's meeting of its parliamentary caucus in Cape Town seems now to be little more than a formality.

Three of the 21 National Party MPs who voted with Dr Treurnicht a week ago against a motion of confidence in the Prime Minister over the issue of "power-sharing" between whites, Coloureds (those of mixed race) and Indians have since had second thoughts and returned to the bosom of the party.

So Dr Treurnicht and his men seem likely to form a new right-wing opposition group of 19 MPs, reducing the National Party's strength from 142 to 121. The biggest opposition party will remain the Anti-Apartheid Progressive Federal Party, led by Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, which has 27 seats. Sanctioned between the two will be the moderately reformist New Republic Party of Mr Vause Raw.

In circumstances chillingly reminiscent of a massacre here last month, unidentified armed men raided homes in the capital yesterday, and dragged away young men.

The raids took place in a neighbourhood of mean shacks that straggles down the side of a ravine four blocks from the Sheraton Hotel, at the foot of the San Salvador volcano.

Residents, who last night said the armed men had returned to threaten them if they spoke to journalists, reported that the raiders had sought out all the young men in the neighbourhood aged between 15 and 20, tied their hands behind their backs, and took them away in a fleet of minibuses.

The residents said that the raiders were dressed as civilians, but carried G3 assault rifles, a weapon used by both sides in the Salvadoran war.

Normally, they said, there was a heavy police presence in their neighbourhood. The absence of police patrols was all the more remarkable in view of the massive security operation carried out in San Salvador yesterday, to coincide with the second anniversary of a massacre of mourners at the funeral of the assassinated Archbishop of El Salvador.

A spokesman for the national police said he had "no knowledge" of the abduction.

The young men were seized near a farm from San Antonio Abad, where 20 civilians were killed three weeks ago by Salvadoran soldiers.

The whereabouts of the victims of the latest raid remained unknown today, but their disappearance reflected a trend which is causing increasing concern to relief organisations here.

Apparently because of the glare of publicity that has focused on excesses committed against the civilian population, the "death squads" and other groups responsible for political violence in El Salvador, are increasingly taking their victims to so far undisturbed places to dispose of them.

"We know that human rights are being violated on a bigger scale than ever, but we're not finding the bodies. People are just disappearing, and when we approach Government officials, they ask us how do we know that the missing people haven't gone off to join the guerrillas," said an official of an international organization, who asked to remain anonymous.

President Reagan and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, exchanged low-key letters yesterday to mark the tenth anniversary of renewed ties between the two countries, but made no direct reference to their controversy over the supply of American arms to Taiwan.

In his letter, Mr Reagan declared his willingness to work with Peking to "overcome differences and deepen American-Chinese ties". Mr Zhao's letter said that the development of Sino-American relations was not only in the fundamental interests of "our two peoples, but also conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in Asia and the world as a whole."

He did not refer to China's strong objections to sales of military aircraft and other weapons to Taiwan but said his Government was willing to make efforts to "overcome the obstacles currently existing in the relations between the two countries."

The letters commemorated the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Shanghai Communiqué, by President Nixon and the late Mr Chou En-lai, then the Chinese Prime Minister. This opened the way to full diplomatic relations between the two countries from January 1, 1979.

Both Washington and Peking allowed the anniversary to pass yesterday without any public celebrations, thus reflecting the lack of warmth in their current relations. Only last month Washington announced that it would allow Taiwan to co-produce F5E fighters, although as an obvious concession to Peking, it ruled out the supply of more advanced aircraft.

President Reagan's letter said bilateral ties now encompassed trade, banking, maritime affairs, civil aviation, agriculture, education, and scientific exchange, technology transfer and many other fields. Well over 100,000 Americans and Chinese now flowed back and forth between the two countries each year. These good relations enhanced the prospects for peace and stability throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, he said.

The President expressed the desire to build an even stronger bilateral and strategic framework for long-term friendship between the two nations.

Neither of the two leaders mentioned their strained relations with the Soviet Union. But a State Department spokesman answering reporters' questions said the shared global, strategic and regional interests of Peking and Washington far outweighed their differences.

Writing in *The New York Times* yesterday, Mr Nixon said the Taiwan issue was causing rumblings of discord, particularly with regard to American arms sales. Once again, it was vital for both sides to avoid extremes.

Salvadorean dilemma

Reagan's options running out

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 1

El Salvador is becoming the top foreign policy issue confronting the Reagan Administration. However, it is growing increasingly clear that the Administration is uncertain how to proceed if — as now seems likely — this month's elections in the Central American republic do not succeed in bringing the conflict to an end.

According to informed sources, President Reagan, who is due to begin a week-long visit to the West Coast tomorrow, has been presented with a gloomy assessment of El Salvador's election prospects by his senior advisers.

The President has been told that, because of escalating guerrilla activity, the chances of holding a successful election on March 28 are rapidly dwindling. He has been advised that the Salvadoran forces have little chance of winning a prolonged war against the insurgents.

In the speech last week in which he presented his Caribbean Basin Plan, the President emphasized America's commitment to El Salvador, which is to receive a substantial increase in American military aid.

He also emphasized that the United States had no plans to support the Government of President José Napoleón Duarte.

The dilemma facing the President and his advisers is simple but stark. On the one hand, they want to prevent the insurgents from taking power, on the grounds that the establishment of a left-wing regime in El Salvador, in addition to Nicaragua (supported by Cuba), would pose a threat to other countries in the area, notably Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica.

On the other hand, the Administration wants to avoid being drawn into a situation in which it can only prevent this happening by the direct involvement of American forces.

Opinion in the United States is divided on whether America should become more deeply involved in El Salvador. Some conservatives have accused the President of dragging his feet, and are urging the President to use El Salvador as an example to show the world — that the United States will stand up for its friends when they are threatened by communist expansionism.

However, the conservatives are in the minority. Opinion polls show that there is strong public sentiment against a military effort to help the Salvadoran Government.

A leading article in *The New York Times* today, which was strongly critical of the President's stance on El

Salvador, emphasized the need for foreign policy to be backed up by domestic support. "By any reasonable measure," Mr Reagan is failing that test in El Salvador," the newspaper said.

The Administration's dilemma is compounded by lack of support for its present policy among its allies.

Furthermore, America's southern neighbour, Mexico, favours negotiations between the Government and guerrillas in El Salvador as the best way of ending the bloodshed while Canada, though not opposed to this month's elections, is also beginning to lean towards a negotiated settlement.

President José López Portillo of Mexico has said that chances of peace in El Salvador have been diminished by President Reagan's recent tough speech about the tensions in Central America (Peter Stafford writes).

In an interview with *Le Monde*, President López Portillo said that he would, however, continue to offer mediation.

He said he still insisted on the need for a "dialogue" between the opposing parties. He expected his ideas to be taken up at a meeting soon between Señor Jorge Castañeda, the Mexican foreign minister, and Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State.

Death squad victims vanish

From Paul Elman, San Salvador, March 1

In circumstances chillingly reminiscent of a massacre here last month, unidentified armed men raided homes in the capital yesterday, and dragged away young men.

The raids took place in a neighbourhood of mean shacks that straggles down the side of a ravine four blocks from the Sheraton Hotel, at the foot of the San Salvador volcano.

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The President expressed the desire to build an even stronger bilateral and strategic framework for long-term friendship between the two nations.

Neither of the two leaders mentioned their strained relations with the Soviet Union. But a State Department spokesman answering reporters' questions said the shared global, strategic and regional interests of Peking and Washington far outweighed their differences.

Writing in *The New York Times* yesterday, Mr Nixon said the Taiwan issue was causing rumblings of discord, particularly with regard to American arms sales. Once again, it was vital for both sides to avoid extremes.

Papandreou rejects package on Cyprus

From Mario Modiano, Nicosia, March 1

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, rejected today the idea of a package deal with Turkey to solve the problems of Cyprus and the Aegean. Both issues were, as he put it, the products of Turkish expansionism which the West had failed to bridge.

The Prime Minister was outlining his Government's new strategy on Cyprus during a news conference just before flying back home after two days in Cyprus which, he said, had made him feel proud to be a Greek.

Greece, according to Mr Papandreou, would reactivate its role as a guarantor power of Cyprus by launching a worldwide crusade to explain the true nature of the Cyprus problem as a case of foreign invasion and occupation of an independent state.

He added: "We shall never forget that Britain, which is also a guarantor power, failed to fulfil its obligations towards the Cypriot people."

Greece has an effective military presence in Cyprus during a news conference just before flying back home after two days in Cyprus which, he said, had made him feel proud to be a Greek.

Mr Papandreou was asked during the press conference if he would favour a package deal for Cyprus and the Aegean. He answered that the two issues were historically interlinked since they sprang from Turkish expansionism. Yet Cyprus was a problem of Turkish occupation, while the Aegean was a Greek-Turkish problem which, since both were NATO countries, was a problem for the alliance.

This redefinition of the two basic issues sums up Mr Papandreou's new strategy towards Turkey.

He appeared prepared to tolerate the Cyprus intercommunal talks under United Nations auspices for as long as it is necessary for the United Nations to prove that it can produce no solution while the Turkish occupation of the island remains on the island. That was the real problem of the island and he was launching his crusade to invite initiatives from European countries.

He said today: "This is the time when we are asking our friends to stand so far and be counted. Their friendship must be proved."

The Greek leader said he thought there would be action, particularly if international personalities such as Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor, acted as a catalyst. He also claimed to detect a possible shift of Soviet policy in the region from what the Soviet press was publishing of late.

Addressing a special session of Parliament in Nicosia last night, he listed three conditions for a Cyprus solution to be acceptable to Greece: It should leave no part of Cyprus under foreign occupation; it should allow all refugees to return to their homes; and it should enable the people of Cyprus, both Greeks and Turks, to enjoy the rights of an independent, integral, demilitarized, and non-aligned republic.

Except for sporadic machine-gun bursts in the Turkish sector, near the dividing "green line", attributed to army exercises, there has been so far no reaction from the Turkish-Cypriot community to Mr Papandreou's visit which has given the Greek-Cypriots fresh hope for a solution.

Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, said Nicosia today that Mr Papandreou had damaged the prospects for inter-community talks by coming to Cyprus. (Reuter reports). "I think his visit has done a great deal of damage. It will make progress in the talks very much more difficult to achieve."

Mr Denktaş added that Mr Papandreou was only paying lip service

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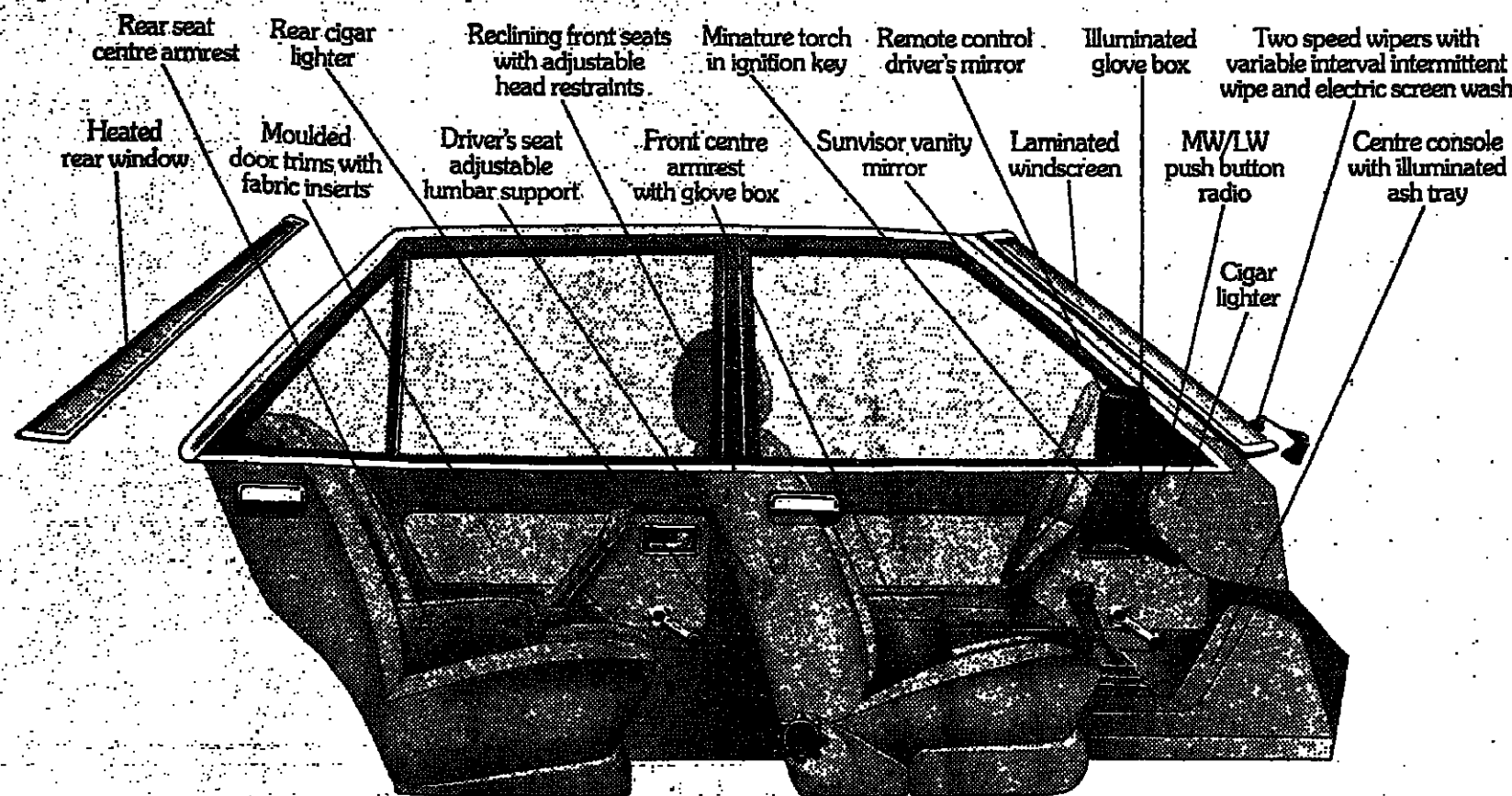


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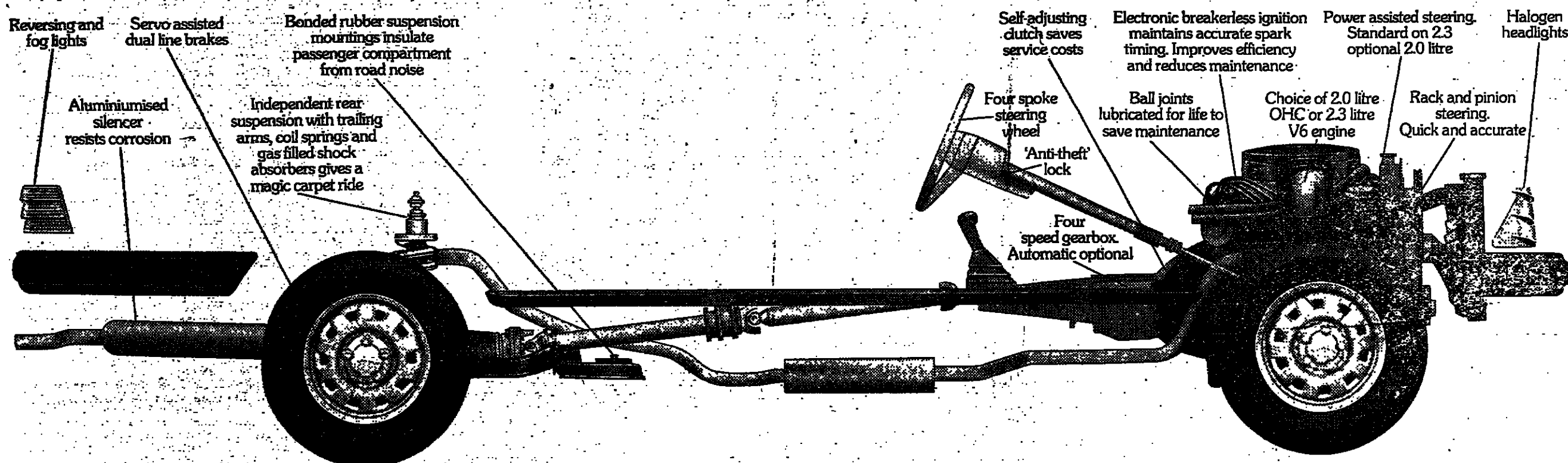
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Palace revolt threatens to kill Reagan budget

From Bailey Morris, Washington, March 1

After weeks of intense public scrutiny, it is now apparent that President Reagan's controversial 1983 budget will not be passed in Congress because of a palace revolt among Republicans who cannot accept the large deficit built into the President's proposals.

Over the past turbulent week in Washington, President Reagan has been pressed hard by members of his own party to compromise on the budget.

Republican leaders in Congress say that they do not have the votes to pass a budget that asks for deeper cuts in programmes for the poor while requesting large increases in defence spending and projecting a cumulative three-year federal deficit of \$246,300m (£13,400m).

Mr Peter Domenici, the Republican chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said: "This budget fails to do enough to cut spending and almost benignly malignant deficits which threaten to crush all hope of economic recovery."

Mr Domenici's comments can be seen as the clearest indication of a potentially huge revolt by conservative and moderate Republicans against Mr Reagan's economic programme, which would lead to the complete abandonment of the President.

Should there be a big uprising, Mr Reagan could have his hands tied for the rest of his presidency, becoming a lame duck leader — in the opinion of veteran party leaders in Washington.

To prevent this, Republican leaders spent last week shuttling between the White House and the House to try to forge an acceptable compromise on an alternative budget which they hope will be adopted quickly.

Almost everyone in both parties agreed that quick action on the budget is needed to shore up the faltering economy before the November election when all House members and one third of the Senate must stand for reelection.

However, Mr Reagan is adamant in his refusal to compromise on either the big three-year tax cuts he has enacted, or on defence spending. Despite pleas from Mr Howard Baker, the majority leader of the House, the President continues to turn a deaf ear to the appeals of his own party members.

There appears to be agreement among Republicans and Democrats that Mr Reagan must take three unpopular steps to turn the economy around.

These include some sort of tax increase to be accomplished possibly by Mr Reagan's planned 10 per cent tax cut, a freeze on the cost of living increases on several security benefits, and a large cut in defence spending.

These actions are included in the alternative budget announced last week by Mr Domenici with the tacit approval of Mr Baker and other Republican leaders in Congress.

The White House has agreed to study Mr Domenici's plan without proposing to adopt any of its main components, which raises a series of difficult political choices for all concerned.

Republicans in Congress appear to have three choices at present. They can stay with the President's programme and accept a stalemate, making there will be no action on the budget this year, or they can convince Mr Reagan to change his position which now appears unlikely, or they can abandon the President altogether and join with Democrats in forging a compromise budget with broad bipartisan support.

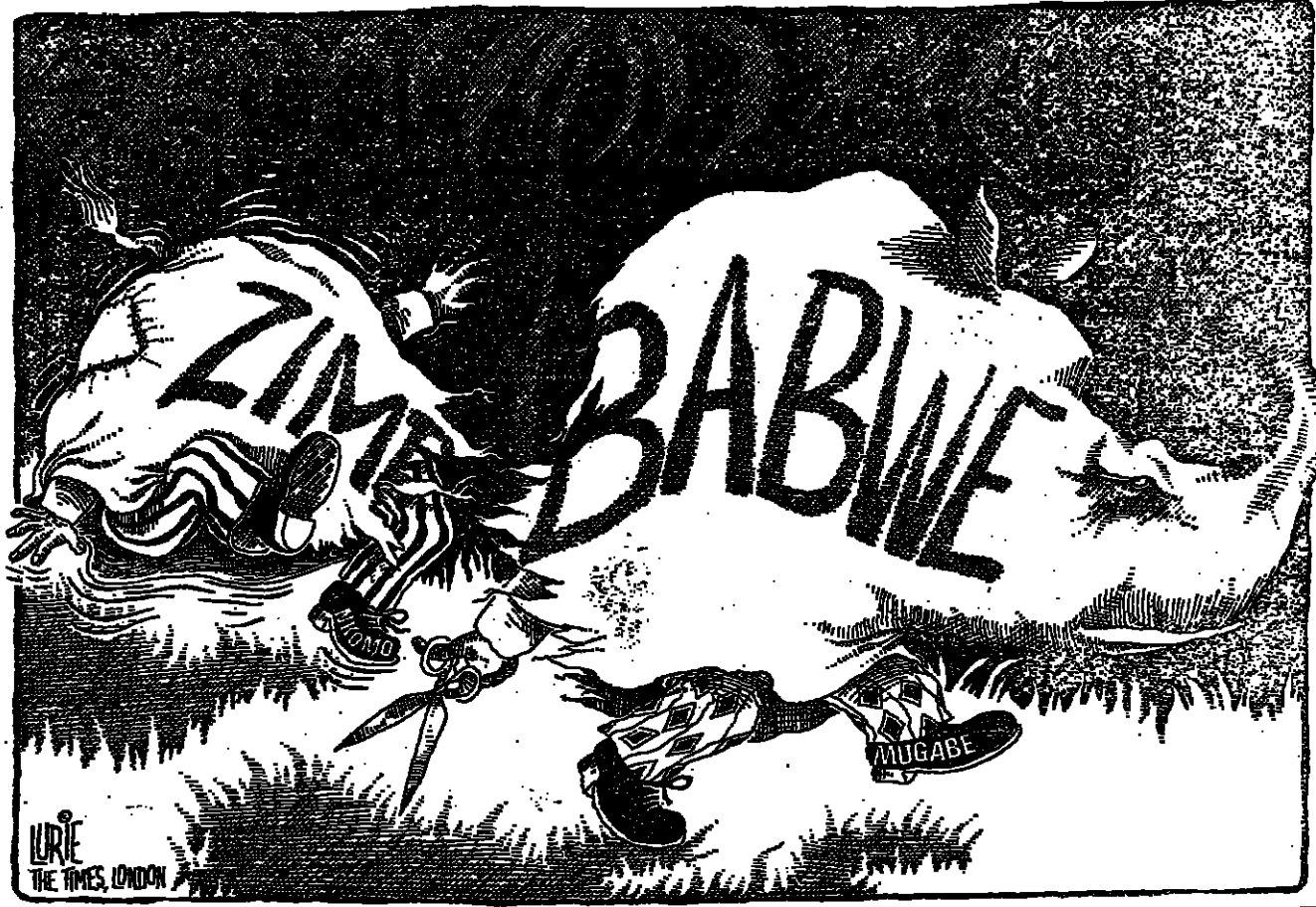
The last possibility has already been explored by Mr Michel who has met with leading Democrats in the House to discuss a budget compromise and a legislative schedule to enable it to be passed quickly. Last week, for example, he met Mr James Wright of Texas, the House majority leader, and Mr James Jones, chairman of the House Budget Committee.

The Democrats, acting on the belief that their most effective political course is to develop a responsible alternative budget, appear quite willing to compromise in the interest of getting a budget passed before the election.

Reaching a compromise, will, however, be difficult. "Raising taxes and cutting defence and social benefits are politically explosive steps. They will only be taken if we all agree to avoid name-calling and political rhetoric in the interest of getting the job done," an aide to Mr Wright, the majority leader, said.

Through a complicated series of manoeuvres, House and Senate leaders hope to force Mr Reagan to accept defence cuts and tax cuts by linking them to the debt ceiling legislation.

Mr Reagan can veto this legislation, but not without bringing the Administration and the country to a virtual halt in yet another display of potentially dangerous political brinkmanship.



Threat of war in south Lebanon

Tanks dig into the poppy fields

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 1

The poppies are blooming across the lower Bekaa Valley and along the grained and rocky hills of "Falahland" where the Palestinian guerrillas are sitting through the last of the winter rains in their leaky tents.

A blaze of red and pink spring flowers have spread themselves up the hills around Hasbaya where the old Roman bridge over the Hasbani river had been repaved for the local shepherds.

Just south of Deir el Ahmar — a village of chickens, puddles and concrete bungalows — Syrian tanks are dug into the fields, a clutch of dirty-fleeced sheep leaning elegantly against their gun barrels.

A mile or two from the little checkpoint where the United Nations troops — Gurkha and Nepali — guard the United Nations' northern lines, a solitary Palestinian lorry stands in a desolate orchard with a Katyusha rocket battery mounted behind the lorry.

To the east, the snows of Golan — silver in the morning sunlight — smother the Israeli's high altitude bunkers. If Israeli and Arab should go to war here in the next few weeks, they will have chosen a majestic field of battle.

According to the deputy commander of Norway's United Nations Battalion, which operates here with the Nepalese, there really is no war in sight. A tall, reticent man who wields a long tape measure before a map of the area which is strewn with blue and red boundary lines, claims that all he knows of a Palestinian arms build-up comes from the newspapers.

"We know nothing about any forthcoming war," he says. "Things have never been calmer in the area. Everyone is obeying the rules."

That may be technically true; but he omitted to mention a few significant details that privately cloud the military optimism of the United Nations in this beautiful corner of Lebanon. He failed to observe, for instance, that the Syrians have dug tank revetments south of their present lines, advanced positions for tanks and heavy armour should the Israelis invade Lebanon through the United Nations' area of control.

He also neglected to mention that Israeli regular troops have been conducting nightly live-firing exercises in the ruined village of Khiam, a ghostly hamlet that lies just inside Major Saad Haddad's Christian and decidedly pro-Israel enclave.

A few months ago, such manoeuvres were rare, a monthly, at the most, a weekly event, but now the Israelis practise for hours each night with hand-grenades, rifles and automatic weapons.

Every day, too, according to United Nations officers, Israeli troops walk up to the Norwegian lines and stand in ritual fashion exactly one foot inside the United Nations' territory.

They then allow themselves to be pushed physically back into the Haddad enclave. The Norwegian troops who vouchsafe this extraordinary story believe it is part of a system of harassment designed to unnerve them prior to an Israeli invasion. What, after all, would the United Nations do if the Israelis moved into southern Lebanon and crossed their lines?

The Israelis have alleged that the Palestinian guerrillas north of the United Nations' area have been increasing their arms supplies and bringing in new weapons in contravention of last July's ceasefire agreement.

In fact, the Palestinians have been bringing in quantities of ammunition but hardly any weapons. They have about 40 aging T34 tanks lying around the land north of the Litani river, several of them are kept in garages — but the most reliable information, apparently accepted privately by Israeli military authorities, is that not one T54 tank has fallen into their hands.

Reports in recent months that the Palestinians have taken possession of modern Soviet-made battle tanks — both by the United Nations and by diplomats in Beirut — are regarded as a credit to little more than imagination.

There is little reason for the Palestinians to acquire such armour, even if they

knew how to drive and fire the weapons. If the Israelis move into Lebanon, the Syrians are ready to move south to meet them.

Some miles north of the United Nations' lines, the Syrians have equipped their positions with several Soviet-made ZSU 23-4 anti-aircraft guns, squat tracked vehicles with a radar dish mounted behind four machine guns. The Syrians clearly believe that the Israelis may stage air strikes across the lower Bekaa.

The United Nations believes that the Israelis, if they really intended to invade Lebanon again and strike at the Palestinians, could move their forces into guerrilla strongholds by thrusting northwards between the United Nations' contingents south of the Litani and by landing troops on the Lebanese coast to the north. Their own peacekeeping soldiers would then be left holding on to territory far behind the Israeli front line.

That the United Nations' take the threat of a limited war seriously is proved by the recent and discreet visit to Damascus of a senior United Nations official, who spoke to senior ministers in the Syrian Government before returning to Beirut.

"We are trying to cool things down," was all he would say to the reporters who found him in one of the best hotels in Damascus. Perhaps he thought that time was running out.

India looks afresh at Coca-Cola economics

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, March 1

It is a matter of pride in India that there is no such thing as a free lunch. As part of their hardening mood of self-reliance in the 1970s, Indians decided that they could do without "the real thing". They now make their own sticky stuff, which looks and tastes much the same.

"Made in India" is more than a label. It is an article of faith in a country which has strong ideas about self-reliance and its own might and abilities. India has emerged as one of the most technologically and industrially advanced countries in the developing world.

India looks at the West and says: "Anything you can do, we can do, even when it hurts."

That is why a foreign car is a rare sight, and Indians develop strong arm muscles handling the ubiquitous home-built Ambassador car, based on the 1954 Morris Oxford, why the space industry patiently develops at its own pace, rather than feigning by buying more advanced Western equipment; and why foreign electronic goods have the cachet of scarcity.

But today, as part of the change in the management of the economy, a more pragmatic policy is taking on a more pragmatic look.

There is no question of a wholesale or sudden shift, but India is beginning to look for more investment from outside. It is making more advanced and competitive in view of a £3,000m trade deficit.

The change has much to do with Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, advisers who are helping her to implement the growth policy that stands as the economic centrepiece of her administration.

She is taking a closer interest in economic management than she has ever shown at a time which she believes to be a turning-point in India's development.

Red tape strangles expansion

The problems are enormous. India has 700 million people, and the population increases by one million a month, helping to erode economic advances. There is no serious or urgent birth control programme. Millions do not have the basic amenities of a safe and reliable water supply system.

India has great reserves of industrial and professional skills, but has weak management, strangling red tape, chronic electricity supply problems and a poor telephone system.

On the other hand, there is a well-developed infrastructure of steel works, coal mines, road, rail and air services and a good postal system.

After the trough of 1979-80, the economy is recovering. Coal output and railway goods traffic is up, and so is power generation, industrial production and investment. Exports are increasing and inflation has been reduced. The tone of a new government, economic survey optimistic; "encouraging" is the word that some of the papers are using.

Nevertheless, there are still large-scale worries. India is proud of its agricultural revolution and production of foodgrains has increased, but growth is too slow for comfort. This reflects the slump in fertilizer consumption brought about by high prices.

Also, for India, as for many countries, there is the pressure of oil prices. There is an \$2,800m loan from the International Monetary Fund to repay (it was secured to help with the balance of payments), and this may act as a necessary stick for improving performance.

Gandhi boosts private sector

Mrs Gandhi no doubt feels things are not so bad as her critics say, and that she really is presiding over a period of growth. She has called a 1982 "Economic Year". Her political supremacy is secure. Strikes in numerous trades and industries are outlawed. The opposition is in disarray.

Her strategy now is to invest heavily in steel, fertilizers and manufacturing; to tackle the pressing energy supply question; and to boost the private sector, with an emphasis on export industries by running a more liberal economic regime.

India's defence spending will rise next year by 11 per cent to \$1,000m rupees (£3,000m) under the new Budget unveiled on Saturday (Reuter reports). The Budget for the financial year 1982-83, starting on April 1 was presented to Parliament by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, the Finance Minister.

Mr Mukherjee, who took over the financial portfolio in January, said the increase in the defence budget was owing to what he called the uncertain external environment. He said the government's deficit next year would total 13,650m rupees, down from the revised deficit estimate of 17,000m rupees for the current year. Additional revenue would be raised through higher excise and customs duties on some items.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Terrorists blast New York

New York — A Puerto Rican terrorist group have claimed responsibility for planting four bombs in the Wall Street financial district late on Saturday (city newspaper Times writes). The windows of the New York and American stock exchanges were blown out, and other buildings were slightly damaged. Nobody was injured.

The Armed Forces for National Liberation admitted last night's attacks in a telephone call to a press agency. The group has been responsible for about 120 bombings in the New York City area, Chicago, and Washington since 1974. Five people have died in the attacks.

Palme defeated by Gulf War

Stockholm — Mr Olof Palme, the special United Nations mediator, who said here he had "exhausted all possibilities" of bringing the gap between the warring nations in the 17-month-old Gulf War after his fifth unsuccessful visit to the capitals of Iran and Iraq.

"There is no way to get us further as long as the political will to make peace is missing," Mr Palme, the former Swedish Prime Minister, told an airport news conference.

Renounce Yalta, America urged

New York — Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former American national security adviser, says the United States should renounce the Yalta agreement reached by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin in 1945 and seek a better accommodation with the Soviet Union.

He told *Newsweek*: "We should renounce Yalta, which most Europeans, both East and West, view as a symbol of a Soviet-American condominium of Europe. But at the same time — and this is something this Administration has not done — we should hold out more tangible and concrete promises, the possibility of genuine benefits from accommodation."

Five executed

Tehran — Five men were executed in the western city of Ilad, on various charges including spying for Iraq.

Begin discounts rift with chief of staff

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 1

Efforts were being made tonight to heal a rift which has opened between the Israeli Government and the country's most senior general over the handling of Jewish militants to the scheduled handback to Egypt of the remaining one third of occupied Sinai by April 26.

The office of the Prime Minister, Mr Menachem Begin, issued a hasty statement denying reports carried by the state-controlled radio that Mr Begin had threatened Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitan, the Chief of Staff, with dismissal if he repeated conciliatory statements similar to those he made yesterday to an angry crowd of anti-withdrawal activists in the Sinai.

The dispute comes after signs that many Israeli soldiers are unhappy at the prospect of having to evict the settlers. A report in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post* said that some soldiers manning the new road blocks were in tears after being branded as traitors by Jewish protesters wearing yellow stars.

General Eitan, who is widely renowned for his hawkish political views, addressed the militants through loudspeakers from the back of an Army jeep. He hinted that he would lobby for the removal of the new Army barriers if the protesters would agree to dismantle barricades which they had erected at the entrance of the town.

An official translation issued through the government press office, quoted Israel's longest serving chief of staff as expressing the hope "that matters can be returned to their former state, in which everyone expresses his views in a way which will not cause reaction".

The general, whose impromptu speech was televised in Israel's main evening news programme, continued with

an apparent reference to the Prime Minister. "Then I promise you," he told the protesters, "that I, even from here if I can, will go off and speak to whomever has to be spoken to in order that everything returns to its former state."

News of Mr Begin's rebuke was disclosed to the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee today by Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister. Only hours before Mr Sharon had informed a delegation of Sinai settlers that there was no question of the new barricades being removed before April 26.

Earlier today Israeli police arrested more than 20 supporters of the *Sinai* withdrawal movement during the first clashes inside the occupied Egyptian territory since it was closed to non-residents at midnight on Friday.

The arrests took place when the security forces moved in to evict more than 150 illegal squatters from one of the agricultural settlements which surround Yamit. Many of those arrested were religious students from Kiryat Arba.

Tomorrow the ruling coalition will face a no confidence motion in the Knesset tabled by the extreme right-wing Tehiya Party, which is bitterly opposed to the new barricades.

Mr Philip Habib, America's special envoy to the Middle East, held a series of talks with senior Israeli Ministers today as he continued his latest round of shuttle diplomacy designed to preserve the fragile seven-month-old ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians.

He described his discussions with Mr Begin as "satisfactory and fruitful." He also met Mr Sharon and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister. It is understood he now plans to visit Syria before returning again to Lebanon and Israel.

Ecevit denies insulting town's police chief

From Raski Gurdilek, Ankara, March 1

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Social Democrat Prime Minister of Turkey, today continued his series of court appearances since the army coup in 1980. He appeared before a civilian court charged with insulting the police chief of a central Anatolian town almost two years ago. He has denied the charges.

The incident occurred when he attended the funeral of a local chief of the Republican People's Party at Nevsehir, who had been killed by right-wing terrorists in June, 1980.

Mr Ecevit told the court that the funeral procession had been attacked by a right-wing mob and that it had taken refuge at the town's police headquarters. There he had been informed by the police chief and the governor who, in his presence, had reported to the then Prime Minister over the telephone that nothing unusual was going on and that there was

no reason to adopt any special measures.

"I did indeed ask the police chief: 'What kind of a police chief are you anyway?'" he said, adding: "If that question is deemed a crime, it becomes too difficult to protect the dignity of the state, the authority of the state, and the state itself in this country."

The court decided to refer the case to a local court in Nevsehir which will have to decide whether it is worth pursuing the charge.

The general feeling here is that it is unlikely that the case will be pressed in view of the inevitable furore it will cause in Europe where Mr Ecevit is held in high regard.

Renois found

Paris — Three Renoir paintings, stolen from the home of an Algerian in the Marais district of Paris. Three men were arrested.

Paris wary of army reforms

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 1

The French armed forces are commonly described as the great silent one, but they are not so passive. They have survived the sweeping change which brought the Left to power last May, apparently with little effect — far too little for some of the Government's more radical supporters.

The impatience of the radicals has come to a head in recent weeks, causing agitation and unrest, especially among national servicemen, and bringing demands for a shortening of conscription and the creation of soldiers' committees in regiments and military establishments.

But Mr Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, gave a sharp warning last weekend that there was no question of introducing a class struggle into the armed forces and called for vigilance against those who want to undermine the spirit of defence.

The Socialist Government has to tread carefully in the matter of reforming the armed forces. Measures which seemed possible while the party was in opposition such as the shortening of conscription from one year to six months and which were enshrined in M Mitterrand's electoral promises, have proven impractical since. From both a defence and an economic point of view.

It would be out of the question to have more workers on the unemployment register when France is affected more than its neighbours by unemployment among school leavers. Moreover, the increased threat to French security from the build-up of Soviet armaments to which both the President and his Defence Minister are constantly drawing attention, calls for strengthening, not a weakening, of the spirit of resistance, of which conscription, in their view, is the inspiration.

Last October, M Hernu announced 20 measures affecting leave, pay, and conscription of the ranks about welfare and living conditions. But he is not prepared to embark on a socialization of the armed forces.

Should Britain fall in, p10

Prisoners of conscience



USSR: Alfreds Zarins

By Caroline Moorehead

Alfreds Zarins, a Latvian poet and teacher accused of anti-Soviet activities, has been deported from his home in Aluksne, 200 miles south of Leningrad, to a Siberian labour camp. Mr Zarins, who is 58 and has suffered two heart attacks over the past year, is to serve three years' hard labour.

He was on sick leave from his job teaching Latvian history and literature at a secondary school when he was picked up by the police in April, 1981, in Aluksne and transferred to Riga for interrogation. His arrest came soon after Swedish radio broadcast a poem he had smuggled out to the West called *Is it Allowed?*

A letter he had written to friends in the West in which he discussed the feelings of Latvians under the Soviet regime was also intercepted by the authorities.

Through no official charges were made known, Zarins was accused of keeping "forbidden literature", including books of Latvian history and programmes of Latvian cultural events. In particular he was questioned about his contacts with Latvians living outside the Soviet Union.

Zarins has two teenage children and his family, who have not been informed exactly which labour camp he has been sent to, fear he will not survive the harsh conditions in Siberia.

CORRECTIONS

The caption to a photograph of Mr Andreas Papanastasiou, yesterday incorrectly described him as President Papanastasiou.

In the travel article on malaria on February 27, the telephone number of the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene should have been given as 01-636 8636.

ABORIGINES AGREE MINE DEAL

Darwin, March 1. — Aboriginal leaders announced today that they had reached the basis of an agreement to allow two mining companies to exploit Australia's richest-known uranium deposit at Jabulu in the north of the country.

The agreement was announced by representatives of the traditional aboriginal owners of the land where the uranium is located and by Pancontinental Mining, which has a 65 per cent share in a joint venture set up to develop the vast deposit.

Mr Eric Pratt, a lawyer representing the Northern Land Council, which groups aboriginal leaders in the Northern Territory, said the agreement was initiated at the weekend after a year of negotiations.

The Jabulu deposit, 150 miles east of Darwin, is estimated to contain more than 200,000 tonnes of uranium oxide. Pancontinental said the mine is expected to have a life of 25 years, and produce about £11,000m worth of uranium. — Reuter.



A princely mission

The Duke of Edinburgh being welcomed in Delhi by Mrs Indira Gandhi, officials on the preservation of tigers. He was also meeting President Reddy.

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THEATRES

National Service: should we get felled in?

As the debate reopens, Henry Stanhope examines the case for and against conscription

Nearly 20 years after the last National Serviceman threw away his white flag, Britain remains the only large European power to rely on volunteers for its defence. Should we think again?

Unemployment and street violence have encouraged interest in some form of national service for the young and at least four opinion polls have recently reflected this. But the emphasis has been on civil, not military, conscription, with a period in the armed forces favoured, if at all, as one of many options; or, announced, simply as adventure training for unemployed youngsters.

By and large this suits the services, who, contrary to popular belief, are less than anxious to seize every long-haired leftie who walks past a recruiting office and lick him into shape. (Many soldiers might feel the itch individually, but not collectively as a profession.) The image of the services as a happy band of skilled, dedicated volunteers has been expensively cultivated since 1963 and the Ministry of Defence is loath to see it go.

Another reason for Whitehall's lack of enthusiasm for military conscription is the expense. Scripts are admittedly paid less than regulars (who nowadays are paid very well) but there are usually many more of them — who have not only to be paid but equipped. With main battle tanks now costing £1.5m each and the hardware of an armoured division totalling around £1,000m, there are limits to the size of the ranks.

Attitudes might be different if recruiting was more difficult than it is. But despite reservations during the early years, and in spite of continuing difficulties in certain areas, the services have managed reasonably well since the early 1960s. There have been peaks and troughs, the peaks usually reflecting hard times for the economy and insecurity for the services. But as the economy seems to be going through more bad times than good, the obvious conclusion may be drawn.

Discontent over pay and conditions in 1977-78 caused recruiting and retention rates to plummet and in 1980 the RAF lost 10,000 pilots — the forces have not yet caught up. But the



How it's done in Holland: conscripts swarm over a tank during a military exercise

shrinking job market has meant that for most of the time they can now pick and choose among the best applicants — particularly as manpower cuts last year have reduced their own requirements. Ideally they would like to accept more than they need, to fatten up before the lean times predicted for the mid-1980s, but they are hardly in a position to make do with reluctant heroes.

Yet another argument is that modern weapons are too complex to be handled effectively by "amateurs". For most of those after the second World War, national service meant two years with the colours, and this is still regarded as the minimum if the forces are to benefit from any immediate return on the training. In some Nato countries conscription lasts for less than a year. But in a country like Britain this would mean an enormous turnover in training. In 1957, the year in which Mr Duncan Sandys, as Defence Secretary, announced the immediate return of national service, 150,000 out of 700,000 in the forces were engaged in training or in being trained.

In the 1950s this huge training machine was able to use camps and equipment — admittedly already dated — dating from the Second World War. Now, however, a return to national service would mean building more barracks at a cost of up to £25m for each major unit of battalion or regimental size. It is also doubtful if the training areas could accommodate troops on exercises now that the bases and facilities East of Suez have been relinquished.

The accepted wisdom is that this hardly matters anyway because Britain no longer needs large forces. The late Sir Basil Liddell Hart wrote in 1957 that as the army had been 220,000-strong before the War, when the empire had to be policed, it now needed only 140,000.

If there were another war, say the pundits, it would be short and sharp. The allies would look to Britain to contribute quality rather than quantity, disciplined troops who would be able to operate advanced systems while they themselves were threatened by a lethal offensive. For that reason — and others including financial —

the emphasis has been on recruiting fewer and retaining them for longer, rather than the kaleidoscopic effect of national service. A proposal two years ago by Sir Hugh Fraser, MP, that a national register should be compiled of those eligible for military/civil call-up in a crisis met with little enthusiasm at Westminster and still less in Whitehall. Officials argued that it was politically too sensitive, particularly as it would involve deciding at the outset who would be exempt and which occupations would be reserved.

"The workload", said one civil servant, "would be enormous." But should the wisdom be so readily accepted? Predictions that "the next war" would be short and sharp have been notoriously wrong at least twice this century. Even the war between Iran and Iraq has dragged on far longer than most experts thought. The size of the British Army would be slightly more than doubled on mobilization of the reserves to around 300,000. But that represents all the available trained manpower, and if the war did last more than a month or so there is not the machinery — or

even a register — to manufacture any more.

The most powerful argument in favour of national service is that it does create a larger reserve. The Army, which would be the service most concerned, argues that within six years of leaving the colours a soldier's knowledge and skills, especially acquired, are outdated or forgotten. But national service would mean that he would at least have a feeling for what the Army is all about, and would be more trainable if the need arose.

There is also the argument that every young man (and woman?) has a duty to feel involved in the defence of his/her country — as in Israel. That military life has a disciplinary effect on recalcitrant youth is less supportable and few people in the Army want to see their service treated as a kind of reform school for tearaways.

There is no disputing, however, that the services are a reservoir of practical skills which could benefit more youths than is the case. The standard of apprentice training in the forces is admirable and Dr Alastair Dickson, director of Community Service Volunteers, holds the personal view that NCOs could contribute a great deal by leading teams of young people on voluntary work.

In fact the Army, at first rather cautiously and then more enthusiastically, drew up several schemes which would help young people under the Youth Opportunities Programme last year. These foundered because the Army could not afford to fund them on its own and because there were political objections to official resources being used in this way. However, the Ministry of Defence is expected to announce this week an adventure training scheme for the young.

Strong objections would be raised to any form of compulsory military conscription. Given scepticism among the armed forces themselves and in the Ministry of Defence, there seems little likelihood that Britain will put the clock back 19 years. But should any form of national service be adopted — and there would seem to be growing support for it — there are persuasive arguments for making a period in one of the services an available option. The benefit could be mutual.

Britain, facing another caning from Europe

For a government to suffer the occasional defeat before the European Court of Human Rights may be thought a misfortune. But to lose with the regularity of the United Kingdom is beginning to look like carelessness. The Scottish corporal punishment case decided last week is the eighth reverse for the Government since 1975, far and away the largest tally among the contracting countries.

Numbers alone can of course mislead. More does not necessarily mean worse. Some countries, like Turkey, still do not allow their citizenry the right of individual petition to Strasbourg. More significantly, about two thirds of the contracting countries have incorporated the Human Rights Convention into their domestic law, thereby giving their own courts a prior opportunity to uphold complaints. Had the UK also incorporated it, it is just possible that some of the eight cases might have been settled in domestic proceedings.

But if the British judiciary had accepted the more limited interpretations of the convention, it might have been caught between the requirements of the convention and a reactionary public opinion.

A small country which has had the temerity to claim nearly a thousand million subjects has obviously not got problems for itself, but compliance with the convention never in fact entailed large-scale immigration. Constitutional arrangements within the British Isles have by contrast occasionally been a source of genuine difficulty. The UK Government is stuck with responsibility for the Isle of Man under the convention without a tradition of wielding political power on the island.

It has not made the Government's life any easier that British pressure groups have chosen to take the convention seriously. The National Council for Civil Liberties, the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, the Freedom Association, and MIND, the mental health charity, have all been associated with successful applications. European test cases have provided valuable opportunities to achieve otherwise elusive reforms.

The eight decisions of the court so far recorded against the UK touch on diverse issues: a prisoner's right to communicate with a lawyer, contempt of court law (*The Sunday Times* case), "interrogation in depth" in Northern Ireland, judicially ordered birching in the Isle of Man, closed-shop legislation, Ulster's homosexual laws, the Home Secretary's powers over restricted mental patients and now parental choice on corporal punishment in schools.

Apart from these rulings by the court, many other cases which have not reached a final adjudication have none the less made their mark. In the East African Asians cases the commission found the Commonwealth Immigration Act 1968 to be in violation.

Among forthcoming cases a major block of applications concerned with Prison Rules and obstruction of prisoners' correspondence come up soon for decision by the court. The Government has already conceded on certain issues raised. Another case questions the legitimacy of telephone tapping outside any statutory framework.

After a recent West German decision it would be surprising if the Government escaped unscathed. The discriminatory immigration rule on marriage, widely forecast to be in breach of the convention when it was introduced by the Government, will be tested by several current applications. In the field of mental health, cases recently lodged challenge the failure to extend legal aid to mental health review tribunals, a delay of 4½ months in setting up a tribunal hearing and the provision of the Mental Health Act which can block a patient's access to the courts.

On the record so far, neither the Labour nor Conservative Parties could plausibly claim any special respect for the convention. The closed-shop case was the only instance of a violation associated with a piece of party political legislation. Both parties have been implicated in discriminatory immigration law. Both have had ample opportunity to change offending aspects of prison rules or mental health law, but have done nothing until forced, and even then no much favourably argued, to do so.

Almost by definition the issues arising under the convention tend to be provocative. The kinds of reforms necessary to ensure compliance are frequently initiated by well-organized groups. Marxmen fight to retain corporal punishment as a penal measure; teachers resist its removal as a disciplinary measure. Ulstermen organize the Save Our Schools movement (though opinion polls in the province show an even split).

The Prison Officers Association opposes any relaxation in censorship. The Confederation of Health Service Employees and the Royal College of Psychiatrists strive to keep barriers to patients' litigation. Political parties in power prefer not to arouse opposition of these kinds whatever their views on the justice of the cause.

Decisions of the European court can provide both a spur and a shield. It is much easier to introduce reforms when it can all be blamed on a collection of foreign jurists.

Something of this ambivalence is captured by the Scottish "lawyer" case where the Government told the commission that it was "proceeding by means of negotiations and discussions with education authorities to achieve consensus on the matter of abolition of corporal punishment" (although it simultaneously argued that the cases should be dismissed because the parents could have sent their children to fee-paying schools which eschewed corporal punishment). The argument was advanced during the currency of the last Labour government.

On some issues, therefore, the facilities of the European Commission and court are providing a convenient form of arbitration. On others the rulings of the court are establishing genuinely new remedies and challenging tenaciously held positions. Four years ago one legal commentator wrote: "The period when the judges of the court moved with great caution, lest they forfeited the confidence of member states and thus jeopardized the future of the convention, appears to be at an end."

The implications of this change of mood are only gradually sinking in. They might have surprised those who so confidently supported the UK's ratification in 1951.

Oliver Thorold
The author is a barrister and specialist in human rights.
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The risks in pushing gifted children too hard

Last October, Chi-Bin Chien, a 15-year-old American, started postgraduate studies in physics at Cambridge. Next year, Ruth Lawrence, 12, will be an undergraduate at Oxford at the age of 12. Is it good for a child, emotionally, socially or psychologically, to be encouraged to leap so far ahead of his chronological peers?

One Oxford don, Dr Matthew Ginsberg, who is a mathematics tutor at Brasenose, is so concerned at the potential damage done to children by academic acceleration that he has written to the 120 mathematics dons at Oxford, seeking their support for a motion to be put before the university's congregation, which would ban admission to Oxford of anyone under 16, save in very, very rare cases.

Cambridge already stipulates that undergraduates will not normally be admitted before they are 18. There appears to be no similar regulation governing the admission of postgraduates, however.

Dr Ginsberg, whose mother is the head of the Gifted Child Society in New Jersey, feels he has suffered greatly as a child by jumping just one year at school when he was seven. He was already small for his age, and being catapulted into a class of unknown, even bigger, children made him withdraw completely.

"It was terrible. I couldn't come close to competing with the others in non-academic areas, and I became totally introverted. I think it essential, especially for very bright children, to have as normal a development as possible. Acceleration by one

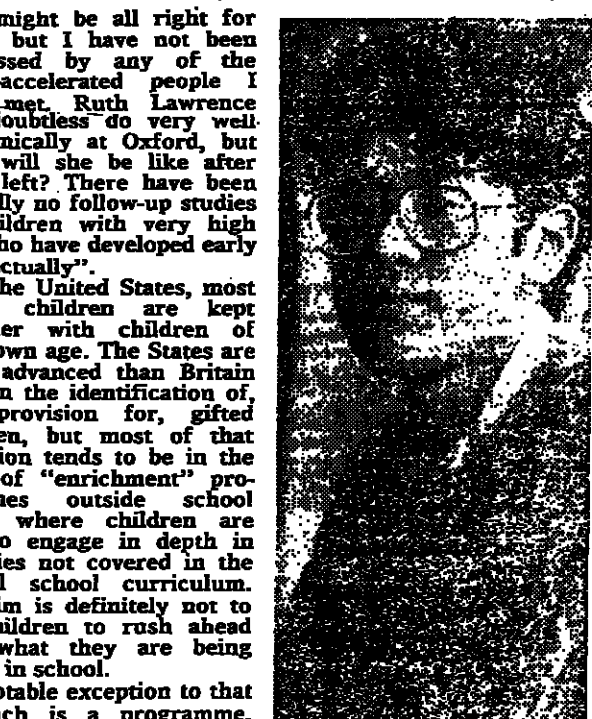
year might be all right for some, but I have not been impressed by any of the super-abled people I met. Ruth Lawrence, who will be an undergraduate at Oxford, but what will she be like after she's left? There have been virtually no follow-up studies of children with very high IQs who have developed early intellectually."

In the United States, most gifted children are kept together with children of their own age. The States are more advanced than Britain both in the recognition of the 120 mathematics dons at Oxford, seeking their support for a motion to be put before the university's congregation, which would ban admission to Oxford of anyone under 16, save in very, very rare cases.

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Chi-Bin Chien: a curious lack of excitement

met and married Chi-Bin's mother. In 1960, they emigrated to the United States. Chi-Bin's father is now professor of physics at Johns Hopkins.

"Ah, that's why he is so brilliant at physics," you say. "Like Ruth Lawrence or Nigel Short, the chess prodigy, he was coached by his father." However Chi-Bin, who is now 15, denies that he ever had much assistance from his father. His father was beyond a helping hand in the evenings with his homework, which any parent might give. Throughout my interview

with him, he seemed at pains to emphasize his normality in all respects, other than simply being quicker than most in picking up what he had to learn.

"People keep asking how I did what I've done. But I don't know how my brain worked either. I can tell you what I did, but not how I did it. I don't remember when I learnt to read and write; not particularly young. I don't think I certainly wasn't doing calculus at six or anything like that. I don't think I worked much harder than anyone else at school. Holidays? Oh, I did normal things — going to the beach, playing bridge, reading; mostly science fiction. I'm afraid I read too much science fiction. I still do."

Chi-Bin was brought up speaking English and Chinese. He still speaks both fluently, though he has difficulty in reading or writing Chinese. At four, he was sent to a private nursery school, before going to the local public (ie. state) school two years later. By the time he was seven he was already finding the work boring. So he was taken away and sent to a private school in Baltimore, which encouraged acceleration of bright pupils into higher classes.

By the time he was nine, he was in a class three years ahead of other pupils his age. "I guess I was one of the best students in pretty well everything, save athletics and art, he admits with some embarrassment. A year later, his father put him in touch with Dr Stanley, and he started receiving extra mathematics tuition from David Meyer, a gifted 15-year-old mathematician who was then in his second year at Johns Hopkins and who later became a Churchill post-graduate scholar at Cambridge.

When he was 11, Chi-Bin took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the standardized admission test to American universities, which is normally taken at the age of 17 or 18. Chi-Bin scored a remarkable 710 of a possible 800 in the verbal SAT, and 750 in mathematics, one of the highest scores for both tests in the whole of the United States.

A year later, he went straight into the second year at Johns Hopkins (the normal undergraduate course lasts four years in the United States), graduating with a 3.6 grade average (the scale is between a B+ and an A-). "I wasn't all that good, but I didn't really care a lot about grades. I got a C in inorganic chemistry — it didn't bother me," he says.

The apparent nonchalance, accentuated by the American accent, verges on politeness. There is a curious lack of excitement about everything. Two years ago, he went back for the first time with his family to mainland China, where his ancestors can be traced back to AD700. How did it affect him? "It was interesting," he replies. "But it didn't really have a big impact." Is he pleased to be at Cambridge? "Um, yeah." Does he have any special ambitions? "I don't really know. Does he feel strongly about anything, I ask in desperation. "Well," after some thought, "I guess I got angry about Reagan cutting the

science budget and the space programme. In his free time, he goes to films, plays bridge, attends a science fiction discussion group, and goes to ballroom dancing classes. Last year, he went to a creative writing class at Johns Hopkins.

Does his age (he is now 16) affect him much? "I certainly feel younger, but I don't think it makes that much difference. I usually socialize with people who are my intellectual peers rather than my chronological peers." Girl-friends? "I don't have any, but that doesn't mean I'm not interested. Girls feel the age gap, and I feel a bit inhibited. That is one of the drawbacks."

His studies at Cambridge involve research into the application of scanning electron microscopy to fossils. His tutors are well pleased both with the quality of his work and with the ease with which he gets on with his much older colleagues. "People are just not aware of his age," Mr Richard Whitaker, tutor for post-graduate admissions at Churchill says. "His file from Johns Hopkins was full of endless references to his extraordinary maturity."

Talking to Chi-Bin, one would have thought, but for his age, that he was 10 or even 20 years older. Despite his apparent relaxed manner, however, he gave the impression of being terribly constrained. There was no sparkle, no freshness. And one wondered whether Dr Ginsberg did not perhaps have a point.

Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

THE TIMES DIARY



Airwick, the company which has been killing odours for years, now alleges that Britons are in danger of losing their sense of smell. Without rehearsing its own role in the matter it says "nature's more pleasant fragrances have been deleted from the sterile atmosphere of high-rise flats and city dwellings. Inner-city children are not sure they would recognize the fragrance of a fresh blossom or honeysuckle." The answer, it suggests, is not to go out and buy fruit blossom or honeysuckle, but to get more Airwick, this time in fashion fragrances copying natural themes. It all smells a bit off to PH.

entrance to Wellington Barracks last week. I marvelled at the exemplary stiffness of the three guardsmen outside, only to realize they were life-size plywood cut-outs.

Making a closer examination at the weekend, I found even the cutouts had been cut. Their number had been reduced to one outside when it's raining. Otherwise the day might soon arrive when visitors could pass the Guards' souvenir and bookshop without seeing a soldier of any sort.

Troubled Taffs
Real guardsmen cannot brave the rain either. The Welsh Guards at Porthcovey could not line up for their St David's Day leeks from the Prince of Wales because of a downpour. The Prince charitably left a box of the vegetables for distribution later.

On the Rhine, the First Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers, were obliged to field a German

substitute mascot for their St David's Day parade. Billy, their own angora, disgraced himself a second time by breaking off one of his long horns in a fit of sexual frustration.

To lead the parade, the fusiliers borrowed a more commonplace, but two-horned, goat who is ordinarily mascot to Cologne football club — the Welshmen nicknamed him Kaiser Bill.

In creases
The departure of our cricketing heroes to have their pockets stuffed with South African gold recalls uneasy memories of the England test team's fancy dress Christmas party in India. The theme was heroes.

While Botham — who has firmly repelled South African blandishments — went as Geoffrey Boycott, Boycott dressed as Prince Ranjitsingh. Less diplomatically, John Embrey, the Middlesex off-spinner who helped persuade Gooch to make the trip, went as a Ku Klux Klansman.

George Burns, the veteran American comedian, yesterday listened to his latest single, Young at Heart, and then told reporters over tea at the Ritz in London: "I am a 36-year-old country singer. And why shouldn't I be a country singer? I am older than most country."

And stop pretending you can't remember Lisa Taylor and Burton being married....



out of money and the production, the first in London since 1963, had to be abandoned.

The first of four performances at the school's Silk Street concert hall in the Barbican is tonight, under the baton of Vilem Tausky, who would have been the conductor at Sadler's Wells.

Nuns redeemed
The Guildhall School of Music is salvaging Poulenc's opera *Dilogues of the Carmelites*, which was to have been staged at Sadler's Wells last year. The producer, Graeme Conroy, ran

the editor of *The Times*, John Thaddeus Delane. It was addressed to him not at Printing House Square but at his house nearby in Serpentine Inn, Fleet Street. What it contained, we do not know, though it might either have been from *The Times* man in Paris (William Howard Russell) or the opposition the following month with the news that the French would capitulate or one of a number of pleas to let those in Britain know the sender was well.

We do not know if that the message arrived late, the balloon came down in the Prussian lines.

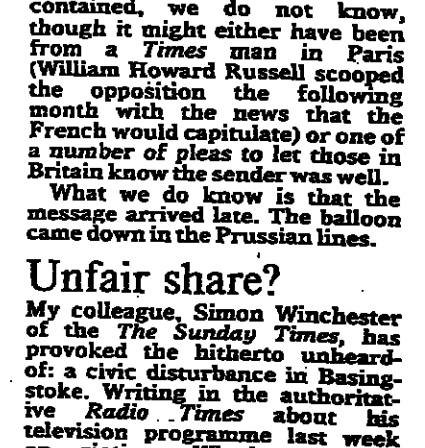
Unfair share?
My colleague, Simon Winchester of the *The Sunday Times*, has provoked the hitherto unheeded of a civic disturbance in Basingstoke. Writing in the authoritative *Radio Times* about his television programme last week on rioting, Winchester said "Basingstoke had its share of trouble last summer."

Roger Morris, the mayor of Basingstoke, is furious and has gone on the rampage demanding correction. His town, he claims, was one of the blessed few which were trouble-free. Sensibly Winchester has fled to India.

Par avion chaud
We are more concerned at present with the future than the past at the *Times*, but there is a fascinating item concerning the future of the newspaper in a stamp sale at Sotheby's later this month.

It is a miniature wrapper sent in December 1870 from besieged Paris — initially by balloon — to

F. Lee Bailey, the lawyer who unsuccessfully defended Patti Hearst on bank robbery charges, was arrested for alleged drug driving in San Francisco. He pleaded with passers-by to note the police brutality during his arrest and to telephone a lawyer and to accompany him to the police station as witnesses.



I am a pessimist I don't believe the banks can survive the short term, and I don't think they will be rescued. The Gyrils scheme in the Bankers' scheme to prevent the banks from leading a life of luxury and to lower interest rates in the most desperate circumstances and other measures.

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P.O. Box 7, 200, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NO BALL

"I think it will be treated as one of total deception", said the Minister of Sport, Mr Neil Macfarlane, yesterday, referring to the action of a dozen English cricketers in touring South Africa. He was right: what is at issue is not a question of judgment but a matter of trust. There are certainly two points of view about the merits of resuming sporting contacts with South Africa at this time. It can be argued that there is no longer a case for continuing to ban South Africa from international competition in those sports where outside pressure has led to people of different races playing with and against each other, that to maintain a boycott in such circumstances is not to protest against apartheid in sport but to use sport as a political instrument against the wider evil of apartheid in society. It may also be argued, less controversially, that it would be an infringement of personal rights for any government or sporting authority to forbid anyone, as an individual, to play wherever he wishes.

But neither of these arguments can be deployed to justify this tour. These cricketers are not going, as a bunch of carefree, if irresponsible, individuals in search of some enjoyable play in a

pleasing climate. They are being paid large sums of money to compete against a representative South African team, who will receive international caps for their endeavours. That is in direct contravention of the policy of the Test and County Cricket Board, which wrote to every first-class player in England towards the end of last summer warning them that if they played in any international or representative match in South Africa they would jeopardize their chances of being selected for England.

If that policy is mistaken it should be changed: if it is changed it should be done so openly. The worst way for it to be challenged is for players to slip out of England secretly, "playing it very close to their chests", as the TCCB spokesman put it with sour restraint.

The impression of deception is all the greater because of the assurances that were given before this winter's tour of India was allowed to proceed. The Indian Government was wrong in the first instance to raise objections to Geoffrey Boycott and Geoffrey Cook as members of the English team because they had played or coached in South Africa. But to ally Indian suspicions the TCCB

emphasized its disapproval of representative tours of South Africa and the two players publicly expressed their opposition to "the principle and system of apartheid".

Boycott's words have now been made to appear as no more than a gesture of convenience; and there will inevitably be doubts over the sincerity of the TCCB's assurance, even though the board has in fact acted impeccably throughout. This is the most serious aspect because the thoughtless or selfish attitude of this touring party will put in jeopardy the future structure of Test cricket. There could all too easily be a division between the white and non-white cricketers, which would be tragic for the development of the game and a denial of its spirit.

The correct course now would be for the TCCB to live up to the spirit of its earlier warning and ban these players from selection for England. However, to go further, as some would like, and bar them from county cricket would be wrong. But to do less would almost certainly lead to the cancellation of this summer's tours by India and Pakistan, and quite possibly to the end of Test cricket as we have known it.

SHIPS AND SHARES AT KNOCKDOWN PRICES

Amersham, HMS Invincible, Bathgate — taxpayers' assets in all sectors seem to be on sale at knockdown prices just now. There is a buyer's market for such merchandise, and there is a sense in which each one of us is made poorer by the scramble to sell. But it is akin to the sense in which the Crown Jewels and the Tate Gallery's Turners might be entered into a balance sheet of national financial assets. Assets count economically only to the extent that they can be exchanged for something useful, and too much preoccupation with paper values can be an obstacle to making them work in the most effective way. The sacrifice may be worth while, if it is made for clear and realisable ends.

None of the three loss leaders look wholly justified in these terms on present knowledge. They are not comparable except in the broadest sense, and the case of the Invincible obviously stands apart from those of the two state-backed industries. But the fundamental question here too is whether the investment tied up in the ship can be used more advantageously now it is free. The sale has realised the same sum as it took to build it, and Mr John Nott argues that three smaller vessels can be

built with the sum, and that they will be more useful. It is true that the case for building the three ships of the Invincible class was a debatable one at the time. But once built, they had a value as a set. With three ships, two can be guaranteed in service most of the time, with one available at all times. The value of the two remaining carriers will be impaired because they will not be able to provide this continuous service, and this will be so however good Mr Nott's replacements may be if or when they join the fleet.

There are also important differences between Amersham and Bathgate. The problems involved in a share are not the same as those involved in a disposal of company assets. There was evidently a gross miscalculation of the value of Amersham, which has left the Exchequer £24m poorer than it might have been. It is essential to find more reliable means of predicting the demand for shares before more substantial public sector share sales are attempted. The alternative of going for tender needs to be seriously considered. But the object of the exercise was only partly to realize funds. The sales policy is based on an ideological commitment to the principle that wider ownership of shares in government-dominated enterprises is healthy in itself. The process

of going to tender would almost inevitably involve the assets falling into the hands of a few large buyers, not a wide range of investors. The embarrassing affair is a reminder that such sales cannot take place in conditions where straightforward market forces operate, and the Government needs to be clear what its motives are when planning them. But at £24m it is an expensive reminder.

The possible cost of the Bathgate sale is reported to be still greater. It appears that the sales were completed without public advertising or bidding, and other obscure points remain to be clarified. In principle it is to a great extent a matter of commercial judgment in the running of a business how assets should be disposed of. British Leyland has been under great pressure to rationalize its affairs in the past two years, and has made impressive strides towards efficiency in a short time. The problem of control and accountability in publicly owned industries is a perennial one, and the present system, where accountability is mediated through an aloof Government minister, is too remote. It should not be possible for managerial mistakes to be fudged and concealed in retrospect, but unless managerial discretion is to be a mockery, there has to be room to make mistakes.

Loans for industry

From Mr George Bowen
Sir, I was delighted to read George Brock's article on investment and interest rates in industry (February 19). I hope it initiates the detailed discussion which I have called for before in your columns.

The short-term view taken by the clearing banks is a disaster for British manufacturing industry. An individual can get a low-interest, 25-year loan to buy a house but not to expand and modernize a manufacturing company.

The banks might argue that the profitability of British manufacturing industry is so low that it is not in their shareholders' interest to take a long-term view. I believe that this merely hides the lack of long-term planning and industrial expertise in our bloated, monopolistic banking sector.

Many people enjoy working in small manufacturing units. If we modernize and improve productivity and competitiveness the markets and the profits are there, even in a recession. But we are in a Catch-22 situation. We cannot improve profitability without investment, and to borrow short term at present interest rates (which with all the personal guarantees demanded by the banks) would be a nonsense. For while many small firms with new investment could become stable and reliable employers and viable, long-term concerns, they are very unlikely to produce the short-term high profitability that other less worthwhile sectors of the economy can achieve if only because they are often in a highly competitive situation which keeps prices down.

I am a pessimist. I don't believe that the banks can or will voluntarily change their attitudes in the short term, and I doubt whether they, or the Civil Service, will be persuaded to accept the Grylls scheme. In my opinion the Government should direct the banks to lend a small percentage of their funds long term and at lower interest rates to the most deserving firms in the manufacturing and other employment-creating sectors. This could

be merely an expansion of the existing, much-trumpeted but barely discernible business development loan schemes that some of them run at present. The cost should be borne by the banks and, if necessary, by higher interest rates for other areas of lending.

It should be left to the banks to ensure that the loans are used for the proper purpose. This, after all, is no more than German and Japanese banks do now. It is in the long-term interest of the shareholders of the banks and the whole nation to have a viable, modern, employment-creating manufacturing sector.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BOWEN,
Mendham Bowen Limited,
45 Blackfriars Road, SE1.

The Pope's visit

From the Reverend William Leah
Sir, Anglicans can only rejoice with their Roman Catholic friends in the theme of the Seven Sacraments as the theme for the Pope's visit. The preface to the Alternative Service Book (letter, February 23) is an understatement as expressing the hope that the revised liturgy of the Church of England does not deviate from that simple Catholicism which provides the doctrinal basis of the Book of Common Prayer.

There are, it is true, the two sacraments which Anglicans generally hold to be necessary for salvation, but quite clearly provision is made, one way or another, for the other five, including, in the ASB, the blessing of the oils. Any of us who have been confirmed, married, ordained, absolved or anointed will be only too glad to rejoice in the sacramental ministry of the Church, whether Roman, Anglican or Orthodox.

It would be better to prompt this historic visit would prompt the Church of England not only to endorse its own full acceptance of traditional sacramental life, but also either to delete those of the 39 Articles which are open to misrepresentation and

give offence to Catholics, whether RCs or ACs, or to abolish them for good. That would be the best possible ecumenical gesture.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM LEAH,
Hawthurst Vicarage,
Kent.
February 23.

Ethnic schooling

From Mr A. M. Housley
Sir, Councillor Croft's assertion (February 19) that opposition to the sale of an Ealing high school to the Church of England was limited to "a few dozen vociferous ideologues" is not true. The matter aroused considerable local interest, was fully covered by the local press, and was the subject of a public consultation programme where the motives of the vast majority of people signing the canvass returns were not clearly identified.

The original admissions policy had to be scrapped as it contravened the Race Relations Act 1976, and the existing policy offers preferment to children of Anglican parents, in a multi-racial, multi-faith borough where 20 per cent of the population is a member of an ethnic minority group.

Most people would probably accept that it is the purpose of education to provide the skills and knowledge for their adult life, but it is equally arguable that the way this desirable aim is realised should not intensify the barriers of class, race and religion.

The sale of state schools to those with sectarian interest and selective admissions would appear to further this undesirable effect.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. HOUSLEY,
Principal Community Relations Officer,
Ealing Community Relations Council,
2 The Green,
High Street,
Ealing, W5.
February 19.

TV broadcasting by satellite

From Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP for East Grinstead (Conservative)

Sir, It is not quite fair of Lord Aylestone (February 24) to suggest that decisions on DBS (direct broadcasting satellite) may shortly be taken "without any public debate". The Home Office study carried out in 1980 involved a wide-ranging process of consultation with interested organizations, and the publication of its report last May afforded a further opportunity for public opinion to express itself.

It may be, as Lord Aylestone suggests, that in an ideal world decisions on DBS should not be taken without prolonged further discussion. But that would inevitably mean saying goodbye to the "modest but early start" — perhaps one or two broadcasting channels by 1986 — which the Government seems to favour, for unless early decisions are taken, and contracts entered into, a satellite system will not be ready in time. That would be a serious loss to British industry and to the telecommunications services which the satellite will carry, as well as to broadcasting. The French and the Germans are going ahead and we also must lead.

The fact is that the BBC has plans ready for two DBS channels. They will need to convince the public that they really can do this extension of their services even if one of these channels is financed by a system of pay TV. Parliament and the Government cannot be expected automatically to agree to make up the difference by a substantial increase in the licence fee.

The IBA and commercial companies, for wholly understandable reasons, are not so far advanced. To wait until they are would jeopardize the "modest but early start" and the benefits it will bring. But even if the BBC were allocated two initial channels, that would not rule out opportunities for participation by the IBA and commercial companies on other channels if they got ahead with their plans and the Government created the legislative framework for it. Indeed that is what I hope will happen if we are not going to throw away one of the most exciting prospects not just for television but for British industry and telecommunications as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY JOHNSON SMITH,
Chairman, Conservative Party Parliamentary Media Committee,
House of Commons.
February 26.

From the Managing Director of Yorkshire Television

Sir, So the BBC is going to fund one of its two satellite channels by subscription. This presumably will be the channel that will show most of the films not available on BBC 1 or BBC 2. In this way the BBC's relationship with the licence-holder will alter dramatically.

The millions who pay their annual licence fee will become second-class citizens at a stroke. They will be denied the attractions that will have to be available to the subscription-paying first-class citizens on the satellite channel. In this way, the BBC will destroy its relationship with the licence-holder, a prized contractual link that has existed for nearly 60 years.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL FOX, Managing Director,
Yorkshire Television,
The Television Centre,
Leeds.
March 1.

Westminster rates

From the Leader of Westminster City Council

Sir, Anyone reading Baron Phillips's article (February 22) could be forgiven for assuming that Westminster City Council has acted quite irresponsibly in imposing a 20 per cent rate increase on its ratepayers.

The London boroughs face demands upon them by the GLC, the ILEA and the Metropolitan Police which they have no alternative but to collect.

May I state clearly three facts: 1. Westminster City Council has reduced its own rate call by £2,500,000.

2. Obligatory collections for other authorities have risen by £56m.

3. Pressure is being brought to bear on County Hall by the WARS (Westminster Against Rateless Spending) campaign, which this city council fully supports.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COBOLD,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1.
February 22.

Health partnership

From Dr R. A. Sturge

Sir, Mr Seldon's letter (February 17) is based on the false premise that standards in the NHS have declined over the past 10 years. Everyone concerned with the provision of health care in the UK knows that this is not so and that, on the contrary, standards in all areas have consistently risen, though by no means as fast or as high as we would have liked.

The remainder of his argument, couched in a sort of harsh economic terminology that ill fits a caring profession, has to be viewed in this light. In essence this argument proceeds in the rather curious assertion that "employees (will) become more valuable in industry" to the conclusion that market forces will dictate the further growth of insurance funded private medicine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parents and European Court judgment

From Mrs Valerie Riches

Sir, An important issue is raised by the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in favour of parental rights in connection with corporal punishment of children in schools.

In the early 1970s some Danish parents appealed to the European Court about the compulsory sex education of their children by the Danish state. Their case rested upon the same Article 2 of the European Treaty of Human Rights as the recent case — i.e., when the state assumes the teaching burden, it must respect the right of parents "to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions".

The sex education in Danish state schools was of a nature which was in clear violation of the parent's private religious and philosophical convictions. Yet the European Court (report, December 9, 1976) judged against the parents.

It would appear that the European Court's concern about parental rights is not extended to the punishment of immature and inexperienced minds, only to their children's bodies.

In Britain, sex education becomes compulsory right from the age of five, and is introduced into the curriculum of a school. There is no legal right of withdrawal, a right enshrined in the 1944 Education Act in respect of religious education, albeit an analogous subject.

The events in St Saviour's in Tosteth prove my point. My method for dealing with disruptive children would be (a) tangible rewards for effort, as opposed to result and, just as important, (b) rapid and if necessary permanent suspension from the school for the persistently disruptive who make the lives of motivated children a misery. If this had been done at Tosteth, the sad events of this week would most probably never have taken place.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE RICHES,
National Hon Secretary,
The Responsible Society,
Wickham,
Buckinghamshire.
February 26.

From Mr Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing North (Conservative)

Sir, Having successfully spent 12 years in a King's Cross 1,100 comprehensive and another seven at a mixed comprehensive of 2,000-plus in Lewisham where, in each case, I had responsibility for school discipline among other things, I am most interested in the European Court decision on corporal punishment. Your own leader refers to the matter today (February 26).

School discipline is slipping badly all over the country and has not been restored from Strasbourg, Whitehall or County Hall. As recommended 4 of the recent report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education says: "The head, the staff and governors of a school should be responsible for the discipline of the school. They should be allowed to apply reasonable and proper sanctions when children misbehave without being subjected to

blanket bans or directives on suspensions, expulsions, corporal punishment or anything else. It would, of course, be necessary for them to carry the support of their children's parents in all that they do."

Schools must be allowed diverse approaches to discipline as a reflection of the diverse attitudes of the parents whose children attend them. Pressure for the reverse of the above has brought many schools to their present low ebb in this area.

Yours etc.,
HARRY GREENWAY,
House of Commons.
February 26.

From Mrs Jennifer Radice

Sir, Why is it that, as implied in the final paragraph of your leader of February 26 about corporal punishment, those of us who (like myself) oppose it are almost invariably regarded as left-wing softies?

I am regarded by my fellow Islington primary school parents as a self-confessed right-winger in educational matters, since I support such unfashionable concepts as academic excellence, segregation by ability and competition between children. But I am not apologetic about opposing, since it clearly does nothing to encourage the wrongdoer to mend his ways but instead arouses simmering and enduring resentment against school, society and the world in general.

The events in St Saviour's in Tosteth prove my point. My method for dealing with disruptive children would be (a) tangible rewards for effort, as opposed to result and, just as important, (b) rapid and if necessary permanent suspension from the school for the persistently disruptive who make the lives of motivated children a misery. If this had been done at Tosteth, the sad events of this week would most probably never have taken place.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER RADICE,
43 Highbury Park, N5.
February 26.

From the Headmaster of Highbury Grove School

Sir, In the light of the Strasbourg judgment (report, February 26) will it now be possible for parents whose philosophical conviction it is that corporal punishment should be employed in schools to insist upon the state making this provision available?

Or is it the view of six of the seven gentlemen of Strasbourg that other people's (in this country, the overwhelming majority's) philosophical convictions are simply irrational prejudices?

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE NORCROSS,
Highbury Grove School,
Highbury New Park, N5.
February 27.

Naval policy

From Mr P. J. Freeman

Sir, The sale of HMS Invincible to the Royal Australian Navy highlights the dangers inherent in the present Government's policy of diverting resources away from the United Kingdom's maritime forces.

Whatever doubts the Secretary of State for Defence or his advisers may have as to the effectiveness of the Royal Navy's ASW (anti-submarine warfare) carriers, the decision to retire the fleet of these vessels in service is an admission, albeit a somewhat grudging admission, that they are valuable additions to the Fleet. Indeed, their proponents would argue that the combination of Sea Harrier aircraft and Sea King helicopters with extensive command and communications facilities gives these ships a unique capability.

The Secretary of State's reasons, as given to the House of Commons for maintaining only two ASW carriers, are revealing. On February 23, Mr Nott, having referred to the limited naval resources available, said:

"We cannot afford to deploy the air defence and anti-submarine escorts that would be necessary to protect the carriers. Therefore, it is better to keep two in service rather than three and the rest of the fleet on the frigate force (Official Report February 23, 1982, vol 18 p 734)."

However, he went on to express his own belief that no government would order ASW carriers today and it may be inferred from earlier speeches of the Secretary of State that he believes the ASW carriers are now vulnerable to the latest Soviet weapon systems such as the Oscar-class submarine.

There are grounds for thinking that the policy adopted represents a dangerous compromise. If the Secretary of State is correct in his fears as to the vulnerability of these ships, then it is not at all clear that even the

two carriers in service can be adequately protected with the weapon systems currently available to the Royal Navy, and accordingly none of them should be retained.

If, on the other hand, the Secretary of State's fears are groundless then it would have represented a more efficient use of resources to maintain all three carriers in service, thus permitting two to be operational, rather than to maintain two, of which only one would normally be available. When viewed in this light the fact that the Royal Navy is apparently unable to deploy sufficient escorts to protect two carriers is a sad reflection of the folly of the Government's decision to reduce the Royal Navy's surface fleet to a maximum of 42 operational escorts.

The Secretary of State was asked in the House of Commons to explain his concept of anti-submarine warfare and how we are to meet our responsibilities. In view of the grave doubts surrounding the Government's policy, the public is entitled to such an explanation as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
12 Tenson Avenue,
Cambridge.

From Mr O. T. P. Carne

Sir, There seems something paradoxical about not being able to afford the anti-submarine and anti-aircraft defence of three anti-submarine aircraft carriers. Perhaps your Defence Correspondent could discuss the logic of even keeping two rather than scrapping the lot.

Incidentally, if the Royal Navy cannot defend three aircraft carriers, what are the prospects for other shipping?

Yours truly,
O. T. P. CARNE,
16 Elmwood,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire.

Health partnership

Regrettably, although Mr Seldon's reasoning is wrong, his conclusion is correct. Market forces are encouraging the expansion of private medicine, at a time when public funds are in short supply, but we must not be fooled into believing that this will ever be other than to the detriment of the public health service.

It is nonsense to speak of standards by which to judge the NHS when there is no prospect that private medicine will take responsibility for the elderly and chronically ill — the major clients of modern medicine. It is nonsense to speak of healthy competition when the vast majority of doctors servicing the private sector also work in the public sector. It is even nonsense to speak of private medicine supplementing the NHS financially — the methods of achieving this are no more than pipe dreams, and the end result can be

the paradoxical situation of oversupply.

There comes a point where copious provision of medical services merely encourages over-utilization resulting, in, for instance, a growth of surgery for doubtful indications such as disease of gall bladder or tonsils, and an increased rather than a reduced strain on the economy in general. This particular problem has been well documented in the USA.

These, Sir, are the true consequences of a so-called partnership between private and public medicine — a two-tier system with more than excellent service for the executive, and a chronically under-funded service for the long-term sick, the elderly and the poor.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. STURGE,
45 Eaton Rise, W5.
February 20.

Nuclear threat to Dorset's heath

From Mr C. S. Green

Sir, The threat to Dorset's heathland posed by the Winfrith power station plan is very real (feature, February 20). The relative lack of opposition renders Dorset's two sites particularly vulnerable, and of these Herbury, although technically attractive, may be a "red herring" to draw off the opposition.

When the original Winfrith establishment was built great play was made of the landscaping of the site and of its purely research interests. Now two reactor buildings dominate the complex, one experimental and redundant, the other a small generator producing 20 per cent of Dorset's meagre electricity demand.

The new giant would supply much of southern Britain. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority have even had the effrontery to erect notices warning of the adjacent site's status as a nature reserve protected, that is, until such time as they decide to destroy it. Now, alive to the growing opposition, they are claiming that less obtrusive cooling towers can be erected, a small comfort considering that they would still destroy the site and still be monuments to the inefficient energy conversion of large power stations.

The irony is that archaeological research on this very heath has shown that this natural wilderness is really the product of the last glacial period, that is, until such time as they decide to destroy it. Now, alive to the growing opposition, they are claiming that less obtrusive cooling towers can be erected, a small comfort considering that they would still destroy the site and still be monuments to the inefficient energy conversion of large power stations.

The beauty of the heath is thus a warning to us. Today we are making the same mistakes in the clearance of the tropical forests. From past experience a "half-life" of about 18 months is reckoned for active local opposition and media interest.

Christopher Booker has thus provided timely refuelling of the two-year-old campaign and a spur to greater efforts against the desecration of this and other threatened landscapes.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SPAREY
GREEN,
30 High Street,
Sixpenny Handley,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.
February 24.

Enemies of Parliament

From Mr Ray Spencer

Sir, You said in yesterday's edition (February 23) "Political strikes are not consistent with parliamentary democracy". Are Mr Len Murray and the TUC no better than the Militant Tendency in their preparations in organizing industry-wide action against the Government's legal curbs on trade union power?

Yours sincerely,
RAY SPENCER,
15 The Spinnery,
Tottenham Corner,
Epsom,
Surrey.
February 24.

From Mr John Liddington

Sir, You assert (leader, February 23) that political strikes "are not consistent with parliamentary democracy" because they are the exercise of power in defiance of those who are elected to represent the majority.

This is not true. The political use by trades unions of the right to strike is, in itself, no more seditious (though it is far more effective) than the political use by business firms of the right to dispose of profit.

This is not to say that political strikes are not open to objection. The objection to them is the same as the objection to all strikes. A strike is a breach of promise secure from redress. A breach of promise is a wrong. A wrong secure from redress is an iniquity.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LIDDINGTON,
University of York,
Heslington,
York.
February 23.

Secretarial duties

From Mr A. D. R. Holland

Sir, In your correspondence columns today (February 26), you have been addressed by a Secretary General and a General Secretary. It would be of interest to know whether the distinction between these two titles is generally considered to be one of class or function or a combination of both.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D. R. HOLLAND,
7/8 Warwick Street, W1.
February 26.

Untapped resources

From Mr R. M. Huleatt-James

Sir, Have I uncovered a London borough's ingenious scheme to circumvent the recent House of Lords decision on the GLC supplementary precept and obtain forbidden finance for pet projects?

My local authority recently wrote to me promoting the merits of payment of rates by direct debit and its letter contained the following blatherblossom:

There are, however, extensive safeguards to the ratepayer which include the possibility that the Council might originate direct debits to your bank account without regard to the intended purpose of the payment or the amount due.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. HULEATT-JAMES,
10a Tabor Grove,
Wimbledon, SW19.
February 26.

THE ARTS

Galleries

Good reasons for regional pride

Arthur and Georgie Gaskin

Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery

Meredith Frampton/Lionel Constable

Tate Gallery

Harold Gilman, 1876-1919

Royal Academy of Arts

We are so constantly besought these days to emphasize, respect and wonder at the artistic independence of the regions (provinces no more) that more often than not we have the impression that we are basking in a political fiction rather than acknowledging a self-evident fact. And yet, for all the tendency of at least three centuries to concentrate artistic activity in London, the regional traditions did and do exist, and there have certainly been more than enough groups arise on the spot, any day, and expect Londoners. If they were interested, to put up to Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham or wherever, rather than wait to be wooed in the West End. And if they were not interested, well, that was their loss; local markets offered more than enough material support.

It is always pleasing to see such local manifestations of the art-spirit commemorated in situ. Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery has a fine record here: in the last four years, it has begun to work its way systematically through the main figures of the great Arts and Crafts Movement which took place around Birmingham in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. First there was a comprehensive show, *By Hammer and Hand*, in 1978 to mark out the confines of the subject and introduce us to the Birmingham craft scene. Then came smaller shows devoted to Edith Payne, exquisite depictr of flowers, and E. A. Jones, metalcraftsman, and last year a big one-man show of Joseph Southall, the painter in tempera. This year it is the turn of a couple closely linked with the others, Arthur and Georgie Gaskin (until March 21).

The Gaskins were both illustrators, both jewellers, designers and workers in precious metal. Before they got married in 1894 Georgie had achieved some slight note under her own name of Georgie Cave. France, after that she tended to receive less notice than her husband, though she continued to illustrate books in a

style markedly distinct from his until around 1900, after which she devoted herself almost entirely to designing jewellery, an activity in the nature of things closer to anonymity. There has been no exhibition of Arthur's work since the Memorial Show of 1929, and none really of Georgie's ever. The organizers of the present show, George Breeze and Glennys Wild, attempt to separate the two (closely linked as they were, professionally and personally) and to give both equal billing. The show is accompanied by one of those beautifully illustrated catalogues which tell us all we could possibly want to know (well, almost) about its subjects, and will remain the definitive work on the subject: it is written by the organizers, and came during the exhibition, a modest £2.95.

So, are they worth all the care and trouble so patiently lavished on them? Is it more than local pride? No one is going to pretend that either of the Gaskins is an artist of world stature, shamefully neglected. But, at the same time, there is enough skill and individuality to make this study overdue. Finally Arthur succeeds, primarily as a draughtsman (even his paintings are solidly based on draughtsmanship), while Georgie is almost as gifted in illustration before 1900 as in metalwork afterwards.

It is not surprising that Arthur early gained the attention and respect of William Morris, who wrote an enthusiastic introductory note to his exquisitely illustrated edition of *Good King Wenceslaus* (1895), printed in its first version at the Birmingham Guild of Handicraft Press and one of the most desirable of Arts-and-Crafts books. It is very surprising that Morris should later have turned against him, and rejected the series of illustrations he did for the Kelmscott edition of *The Well at the World's End*. Mr Breeze quite rightly observes that they are among Gaskin's best work, and, since most of the original designs are included, we can decide for ourselves. Many good judges like Arthur's illustrations for Hans Andersen best of all those inspired by the fairy-stories, and the show has turned up an astonishing amount of other bookwork, used or unused. Later, Arthur continued to paint, meticulously, in tempera, and draw landscapes and people. Some of his later pastels, such as *A Barley Field* of 1918, take on an unexpectedly fauve richness of colour.

Georgie quietly went her own way. Her illustrative work was usually more delicate and, as we used to say, feminine than her husband's. When she turned exclusively to jewellery and other metalwork, she rapidly made her own style, passing from Arts and Crafts chunkiness to a sometimes almost rococo lightness and grace in which renaissance models undoubtedly played their part. It seems generally agreed that she



"The Well at the World's End": one of Arthur Gaskin's designs so surprisingly rejected by William Morris

did all the designing and Arthur sometimes helped with the execution, along with their assistants and apprentices. Seen en masse, like this, the necklaces and pendants and brooches and rings emerge as remarkably stylistically coherent: there should never be too much problem again about identifying individual pieces as Georgie Gaskin's work. A small benefit, perhaps, but a genuine one, emerging as a by-product of the small but absolutely genuine pleasure the whole show affords, even to people who are not already besotted with Arts and Crafts.

In London there are further small, quiet pleasures to be culled from the small, unassuming show at the Tate in which Meredith Frampton is restored to us as a significant figure in twentieth-century British art after 37 years of inactivity (enforced by failing eyesight) and neglect. The show, which runs until March 28, is the first ever devoted to Frampton, now in his eighty-eighth year, and actually, though modest in proportions, contains most of his mature works: he was always a very slow, precise worker, and nearly all his paintings, especially the portraits which predominate, were done on commission, so even in his heyday he was not exactly well-known.

Also, which has tended to militate against his fame both in the 1930s and since, he was a highly conservative artist. So conservative, in fact, that his work becomes eccentric and even experi-

mental. (Hardly surprisingly, he admires the hard perfection of Dali's technique, and many of his own paintings have the hallucinatory clarity we associate with Dali and other classic surrealists.) Looking at a still-life like *Trial and Error* (1939), we really do not know whether we are seeing something rather advanced for its time, or about three centuries too late.

Of course, it really does not matter which. The fact that we pause and wonder is some measure of Frampton's flinty originality. And it must be admitted that he is really a superb portrait painter. He captures the idiosyncratic personality of Sir Henry Wood or produces a stately yet human image of George VI when Duke of York which comes over clearly to us even as we marvel (not quite irrelevantly) at the technique he brings to bear on Sir Henry's boots or the future king's orders and decorations. His rendering of the skin on Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins's hands or Sir Ernest Gowers's strangely ascetic face leaves Annigoni looking like an amateurish beginner. Perhaps his qualities are not such as to recommend him, ever, to a mass public. But we owe the Tate a real debt of gratitude for making this hitherto private pleasure somewhat public at last.

Another Tate rescue operation in the shadows brings us concurrently what is no doubt the first show dedicated to John Constable's artist son Lionel Constable (until April 4). It may be recalled

that in 1976 there were a few ripples on the smooth surface of the art world when the organizers of the bicentenary exhibition at the Tate concluded that there were some works always attributed to John which were almost certainly by his children. This observation is now carried a stage further by isolating more than 50 paintings and drawings by Lionel.

No very marked individuality manifests itself, to be sure. But at least, gathered together, Lionel's work does not look all that like his father's. He has a nice feeling for an unexpectedly lurid colour (with a particular fondness for bright blues and pinks in his skies), and an identifying trick of sketching in delicately a few stalks of grass or bare bushy branches in the foreground of a landscape to give depth and relief. A very minor figure, no doubt, who would hardly now be exhibited in this way if he were not the son of a famous father. But — and let us thank heaven for small mercies — it is wholly pleasurable to make his acquaintance.

I must not omit to point out that the Harold Gilman show which I wrote about enthusiastically from Stoke-on-Trent last year has now arrived at the Royal Academy until April 4. Go and see it even if you are familiar with the Camden Town Group as a group, I think you will be surprised at the power and individuality of Gilman thus isolated from the rest.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Sinister errands

Since every ambitious Tom, Dick and Harry in the media studies world is currently mounting seminars either on the role of the police as agents of repression or on satisfyingly insoluble problems of editorial bias, Police (BBC 1) is already assured of its place in the history books. It would have earned that place on face-value alone.

Last night the cameras swooped about in the dark on errands which were by turns comic and tragic. Now we know what the police are snarling as they bear down on us in their supercharged Rover: "Out of the way! Out of the way! Out!" They got out their sketchpads and brooms at a motorway crash, and set off into the fields to catch a driver. They lay in wait like pikes until foolhardy fish decided to jump red lights, and then the struck, jammed traffic parted like the Red Sea as they sped to the scene of a fatal accident; back at the station they had the tending task of getting a dullard from the victim's father. He was too shocked to remember his son's middle name, or his birthday.

Shots in the Dark (Horizon, BBC 2) looked at the pros and cons of an injected contraceptive called DMPA which a year ago was to be a cause of cancer. The Ban the Jabbers in Washington are mounting a big campaign to

outlaw it in the poor countries where it is currently widely used. Horizon went to the Burma-Thai border to see how it was administered, and how its users felt about it.

We saw the contraceptive bus make its quarterly visit to a village. It never missed a date, (if necessary, elephants would tow it through the floods) and neither did its customers; traders turned its arrival into a market day. A familiar dilemma emerged: for many women the distant fear of cancer was far outweighed by the nearer fear of unwanted pregnancy or botched abortions. DMPA is apparently very effective. The programme touched on its more sinister, compulsory uses, both in Cambodian refugee camps and, it was darkly suggested, with "problem" teenagers in Britain, but its final achievement was to pose a mighty question.

The question hanging over Forged Papers (BBC 2) related to its producer's intentions. What was he trying to do? A *maquisard*, a Colditz-style escaper, the wife of a rich hatter, and the wife of a dead martyr were invited to reminisce about their experiences in occupied France. It was all very confusing and, with the exception of the widow's dreadful tale, very dispensable.

Michael Church

Dance

Double triumph

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

To see a good dancer surpass his or her own standards is always a pleasure. For it to happen twice in one evening is a special treat, which Saturday programme at Covent Garden afforded.

The first to shine was Bryony Brind, dancing Nikiya for the first time in *La Bayadere*. Something about the role, or more likely about Nureyev's coaching and his presence on stage, has her partner must have inspired her. The line of her dancing became sharper, the timing likewise, and, without diminishing the individuality that has made her the audience's favourite among many first-time dancers, she sank herself deeper into the role than in previous classical assignments. She caught the gravity that is at the heart of the choreography (in the full ballet, Nikiya is a ghost at this point), and suffused it with rapture.

Far from suffering by Brind's transfer to the leading role, the trio of soloists in which she danced at the premiere actually gained, because Deirdre Eyden proves even better suited to that part, where her control, poise and exceptional phrasing are all beautifully shown. In *The Two Pigeons*, it was Wayne Eagling's turn to excel. With his impetuous manner, he might have been born to dance the headstrong hero, and the earnest wholeheartedness of his performance was as apt as his wild abandon. Eagling does not attempt to emulate David Wall's triple *tours en l'air* in the last solo, but dances throughout with an exultant energy.

Rosalyn Whitten, playing the gypsy girl, snakes her shoulders and bats her eyes as to the manner born; she gets up a nice turn of speed in her solo too. A third newcomer to this ballet, Michael Crookes, shows all the qualities needed for her lover (glamour, a good jump, strong partnering, a bold presence), but does not yet make enough of any of them. Sympathy for the misfortune of Wendy Ellis, who fell and injured her wrist while dancing the leading girl, cannot disguise that she had already shown herself out of her depth in its comic aspects, lacking subtlety. Lesley Collier, who happened to be in the audience, deserves a medal for the speed with which she got herself into a costume and on to the stage to take over, and a bar to it for dancing so well without having been able to warm up or even to make up.

John Percival

● Three of the leading actors at Stratford, Ontario — Len Cariou, Lewis Gordon and Nicholas Pennell — will take part in a new "virtuoso performance" series at the Stratford Festival this summer. Lewis Gordon plays Father Damien in *Aldrich Morris's* single-character play *Damien*; Len Cariou appears with the Primavera String Quartet in *A Musical Theatre Piece* by Stanley Silverman and Tina Howe; Nicholas Pennell features in *A Variable Passion*, which draws on sources from Shakespeare to Spillane in observing the relationship between men and women.

● Mary Allen, formerly Projects Adviser with Mobil Oil, has been appointed Assistant Director (Arts) by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

The dispute between the Royal Opera House and the Musicians' Union is over. Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet returns to Rosebery Avenue tonight and, included in the programme, is the world premiere of Kenneth MacMillan's "Quartet". This is set to the second movement of Verdi's String Quartet. MacMillan (right) has just used the first movement as a showpiece for Terabust and Schaufuss in Italy, as John Percival reports.



A duet of pure virtuosity

Aterballetto

Reggio Emilia

A small town situated just about the hip-joint of Italy seems an unlikely spot to find a new work by Kenneth MacMillan — and his most successful creation for some time, at that. But Reggio Emilia is anyway, hardly where you would expect to find the base of a company that in its first year has already toured all over Italy, and in its second is seriously discussing the possibility of a trip to London next August.

The name Aterballetto comes from an acronym for Associazione Teatri Emilia-Romagna. The idea of forming a dance company to serve the many theatres of this region dates back about five years, but at first they ventured only into occasional productions, mounted for a tour with a specially assembled cast. Continuous activity began in the 1980-81 season when one of Italy's leading dancers, Amedeo Amadio, became director. During that year they put on two works by Balanchine (*Allegro brillante* and *Donizetti Variations*), two by Terley (*Sphinx* and *Musical Hunters*), Tudor's *Jarvis* and Lillas and three creations by Amadio: quite an ambitious programme.

Last month, to open their second season, Aterballetto presented five more works. The programme is well chosen, with strong contrasts of style but all suited to the company of 16 dancers (nearly half of them Italian) and three guest stars. It begins with Balanchine's

Agon, ends with an ingenious and enjoyable adaptation by Amadio of *Aurora's Wedding*, and in between offers two modern works and the new MacMillan piece. MacMillan has made it as a showpiece for two of the company's frequent guest dancers, Elisabeth Terabust and Peter Schaufuss, in the first movement of Verdi's String Quartet in E minor, music which he enjoyed so much that he has now set the second movement for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet — the premiere is tonight — and hopes later to make a ballet of the whole work.

He really ought to find another name for this first round, which he calls *Verdi Variations*, a title already taken a month or two back by André Prokopy for his latest creation for Festival Ballet. It would be well to avoid confusion, since both works are likely to be around for a while. MacMillan's is an extended duet of pure virtuosity.

Terabust, a dancer of immensely increased confidence and poise lately, has never looked better. Full of does in her steps, and in the pretty little stances of the many off-balance poses of the adagio sections, Schaufuss, besides partnering her with unflinching strength and friendly attentiveness, tackles such wildly whirling leaps as his solos that there is no defining or even describing them; yet the most prodigiously abandoned moments are all carried off with astonishing accuracy.

Flanking this display of classical bravura are two modern works, both of them unbacked choices. One is

by another British choreographer, Richard Alston, who has mounted his *Rain*, now Ripples for seven of the young dancers. They perform its lively, often amusing sequences every bit as well as the Ballet Rambert cast for whom the work was originally made. It might be useful, though, to persuade Charles Amirkhanian to make an Italian version of the rhythmic word-patterns which accompany most of the action. This is wild opera country, and audiences are vocal about anything they do not understand.

José Limón's *Orpheus*, created in 1972, is to another string quartet, Beethoven's op 95. It uses movement of much weight, and curved lines echoing the shape of the hero's lyre (apparently made from a pair of antlers), to express mourning, a sadly faded remembrance of the parted lovers and their eventual separation by three evilly forbidding spirits. An unusual and touching work, it is danced with raw emotion by René Lejeune and Deborah Weaver.

In *Agon*, I have seen the opening male quartet danced with a more jaunty toughness, and the succeeding double and triple quartets given with sharper timing; but this is not an easy piece and may take more performances to work into. Certainly there was no faulting the way Terabust and another guest, Jonas Kage, met the challenging complexities of the *pas de deux*, and the two *pas de trois*, led respectively by Marc de Graef and Beverly Destry, were very reputably done.

Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood

Queen Elizabeth Hall

It was appropriate, with their recordings of Mozart's complete symphonies ending this week, that the Academy of Ancient Music should offer the last two publicly, if only to assure us that their recreation of Mozartian performing circumstances works equally in the concert hall and is not too much the creation of the recording engineers.

Decca's recording angels have certainly done a fine job; but hearing the Academy in the flesh does provide different kinds of revelation. About, for example, the near-impossibility of getting an everthing perfect and accurately tuned from the wind especially, about the way the sound of an "authentic" orchestra based on 22 strings comes across in a medium-sized hall like this, with less weight than one might expect — and one cannot turn up the volume; about the sheer sweetness and beauty, though not a sensuous, fulsome romantic beauty, of the strings, and the vibrant and character of the wind chorus (particularly the G minor, done in the clarinet version).

The G minor: impassioned, personal outpouring, or concert-hall analogue of *opera buffa*? The Academy's answer to this famous dispute was firmly on the latter side: the Andante charming and elegant but hardly soul-searing, the Minuet rumbustious but never turbulent, the finale pulsing with vitality but low in intensity. Are we deceived by modern instruments and over-romantic conductors? I think not. This was the Mozart of between *Don Giovanni* and *Figaro*, capable of ranging infinitely wide and deep; it is simply the great and character of the wind chorus (particularly the G minor, done in the clarinet version).

Predictably, the less introspective "Jupiter" came out closer to full size. There are, certainly, events that they let pass too easily, and parts of the first movement wanted more weight, of the second more warmth. But the whole, possessed real stature, and the great final finale, done with both repeats, came across with dash and uncommon clarity.

Stanley Sadie

Concerts

Dash for safety

Philharmonia/Kasprzyk

Festival Hall

What is one to make of a conductor who has some difficulty keeping two horns together playing crotchets in common time at a slow tempo? I dare say the question occurred on Sunday not only to me but also to members of the Philharmonia playing Mahler's first symphony under the young Polish conductor Jacek Kasprzyk, and the answer they came up with was simple but effective: charge through at high speed and give it everything you have.

It is out, perhaps, because Mahler was himself a conductor of decisive command, that his music is proof against those whose baton-waving is to less purpose. A uniform fast speed is not so terribly damaging to the outer movements and the Scherzo, while the third movement is thoughtful enough to provide a constant funeral march pulse to keep everybody in line. Accidents can really only be serious in the slow introduction to the work, as they were here, with

some notably ill-timed cuckoos. And of course the only other thing to suffer is the vastly ranging experience flexibility that makes this symphony worth performing at all.

Having heard Mr Kasprzyk with his own Warsaw radio orchestra, both in London and in Poland, I was not surprised that his demeanour was so excited, nor that the results he obtained were so direct, but it was curious to find him communicating so little with the Philharmonia. They had trouble, too, in the other, with raw Stravinsky's *Apollo*. This was an odd coupling. The only link I can think of is that both works send up the popular music of their day, but where Mahler is dealing with the experience of café music and military marches, Stravinsky sounds to have just turned the radio on. In any event, here it was all one. The Philharmonia proved themselves to have absorbed the new Stravinsky, and the lack of direction only caused technical problems — as opposed to a musical flatness throughout — in the tricky coda.

Paul Griffiths

Brandis Quartet

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Though a wholly enchanting work, Debussy's String Quartet is somewhat backward-looking, at least in relation to what he would soon be doing. On Sunday afternoon, without undue emphasis on the manifestations of cyclic form derived from César Franck, the Brandis Quartet did rather stress its conventional warmth and lyricism. They produced a lovely tone at all times, and showed a splendid ensemble unanimity, but I would have preferred a clearer separation of lines and a more decisive phrasing in the first movement, and again in the fugato section of the finale.

These requirements were met in the Scherzo, which was delightfully airy and insubstantial. The slow movement also exactly suited this Berlin team's style, and sounded mellifluous, touched with subtle colours; this was a beautiful, sweetly brooding piece of music making.

Haydn's Quartet Op 20 No 4 is less elegant and some-

times fiercely contrapuntal. Here the Brandis ensemble played with resolute clarity throughout, even with a kind of rustic directness in the Minuet with its strong cross-accent. Work of acute refinement and expressiveness was done in the slow movement, a set of variations, and stock was wisely taken in Haydn's structural rickets. In this movement, for example, there was the matter of the unemphatic repeat of the theme at the beginning of the last variation; in the first movement the false recapitulation early in the development.

There is not, as is sometimes asserted, much of the letter or spirit of gypsy music in Haydn's finale, but the piece is full of high good humour and was thrown off with a virtuosity that augured well for what was to follow. This was Schubert's D minor quartet, whose outer movements, especially, received a performance whose stinging intensity was finely combined by a vividly communicated sense of the music's overall shape and direction.

Max Harrison

Orchestra of St John's/Lubbock

St John's

Schubert's eighth symphony seemed on Sunday not so much unfinished as without end, and without very much of a beginning or a middle come to that. Ponderously slow and ill-defined, its only real contrasts lying in the alternation of pompous bombast with ingratiating complacency, the performance was an inauspicious start to a cycle of Schubert symphonies that the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square will give in the course of five concert programmes in Cheltenham, Reading and on their home ground.

Lubbock, was too ready to let the warm acoustic of St John's do the work for him: instead of playing it off by sharpening incident, rigorously selecting and pointing out the counter-theme, both here and in the incidental music to *Rosamunde*, he allowed his players to drift in and out of phrases, sinking deeper and ever more wearily into the push of unvariegated sound.

That same lack of selection, proportion and searching attention to detail in the orchestral accompaniment of Mozart's K488 Piano Concerto did little to help Sunday night's soloist, the young French pianist Bernard d'Amico. Dame Janet Baker's indisposition (she was to have sung Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*) gave a public already stimulated by his performances at Leeds and on the South Bank a chance to hear what he would make of Mozart.

That same thoughtful musicianship, the warm, mobile and deep-toned drawing out of the instrument's voice, was there; but Mr d'Amico seemed less at home with both the music's idiom and the building's acoustics. His tendency to hug a phrase close, to weight each note, together with the orchestra's vulgar phrasing, blurred the spare simplicity of the second movement, suffocating its breathing and dulling the contrasting contours of its themes.

The orchestra drew itself up to make a sprightly enough reply to the Finale's rondo theme, yet neither pianist nor orchestral soloists was able to bring off quite that sense of mischief and urbane delight in each new episodic character.

Hilary Finch

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BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

The blooming of Fisons... the joy of Extel

Goodbye to fertilizer, hello to boom

Fisons is looking a real winner. The management's problem must be that everything it is doing enhances the groups attractions in the eyes of potential bidders Sally White writes. Yesterday, Fisons announced profits of £9.3m, about 15 per cent above the hopes of the most optimistic brokers. This was just a month after it had negotiated the sale of its troubled fertilizer division to Norsk Hydro for £50m.

The pretax of £9.3m compared with £3.8m last year. Sales are £494.4 against £453.7m. The final dividend is 8.5p gross, making an unchanged 14.2p gross for the full year. Earnings per share are up from nil to 10.3p.

That news and the picture of present trading given to assembled brokers' analysts, has raised expectations to £18m pretax for 1982 and £23m for 1983. Earnings per share on a fully taxed basis on these figures would be 24p and 32p, and the 10.6 and 8. "That is hardly a demanding rating compared to other companies in the pharmaceutical sector. I would not see them as far as Beechams, but I might see perhaps 13 or 14 times."

Mr Christopher Clark at Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee said.

So, could Fisons be at 300p to 360p?

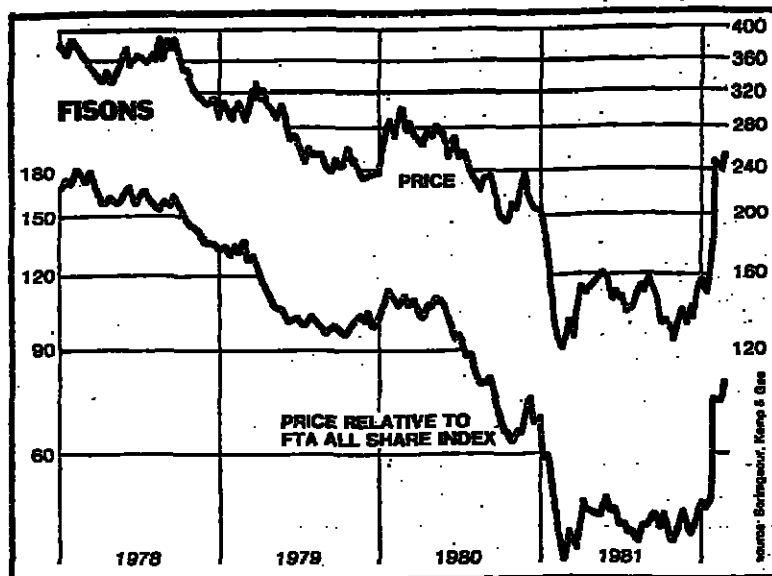
Fisons is already being rerated. The shares have been chased up from 180p before the Norsk Hydro announcement to a close of 255p after the profit improvement yesterday. But no institution has more than 3 per cent, and the recovery funds have only just started to buy.

"I think the fact that we could sell the fertilizer side to anyone impressed people," Mr John Kerridge chief executive, said. Incidentally, the trading in that division has been turned round from a loss of £1.1m to a profit of £300,000 still not enough to make it a viable growth business for Fison. Shorn of that discouragement to any bidder Fisons are vulnerable to a bid from Bayer, or an United States major.

Extraordinary items total £18.7m, include the closures and redundancies in the scientific equipment divisions, and one would think everything else possible to clear the decks.

Cost saving, strict cash management and aggressive management are the main ingredients quoted by Mr J. Kerridge to account for the improvements. Now Fisons is in 1982 with its net assets per share about 300, and interest charges likely to be only £3m to £4m this year.

More than 60 per cent of Fisons' profits arise overseas. In the scientific equipment business Fisons act as wholesaler for a number of companies, selling



products as well as turn-key projects. Horticulture is being expanded overseas, after acquisitions in France and Canada.

Pharmaceuticals look attractive for the long-term. Mr Clark says the company is likely to be more active in licensing to secure good product exchanges and wider, faster margins.

New products are coming through, which the group will announce later. Anti-inflammatory, vasodilator and skin treatment areas are on the list of potentials.

The buzz is expansion

Two buzzwords in the market are "electronics" and "communications". One company that has thrived on the fashion in this, the year of information technology, is Extel Group with its news agency, printing, advertising and telecommunications businesses. Drew Johnston writes.

Since the market shake-out last

autumn, the share price has swept upwards from 210p to 270p. The rating is just short of 14 and the yield is 4.2 per cent. Market capitalization is £33.6m.

Figures are due in May, the year end is March, and the market is looking for an improvement in pretax profits from £3.5m to about £4.5m.

The market likes Extel's policy of cautious expansion. The shares are tightly held with about 70 per cent as strategic long-term holdings.

Extel pleased them with a move into microcomputers 15 months ago through a 60 per cent investment in Digital Microsystems of California. It paid £1m for its stake and, according to Mr Alan Brooker, chairman and chief executive, expects to make further investment in this business. There are plans to service the United Kingdom and European markets from a Thames Valley manufacturing plant by this time next year.

Other activities in the group's broad spread of related interests have also been doing reasonable business over the past year — enough, some analysts believe, to attract potential bidders.

"We don't have a principal interest. That way we minimize dependence on any particular area," Mr Brooker says.

Extel's printing division specializes in City work, and produced, for example, the Cable and Wireless offer-for-sale document. The Royds advertising subsid-

ary, where profits dipped from £1m to about £400,000 last year, is still suffering from recession in recruitment advertising. A profits recovery to £700,000 is expected this year on improvement in the consumer advertising side.

Profitability may also be about to fall at Robophone, which makes and sells telephone answering systems. Analysts argue that the profits growth here may have run out of impetus because of the rise in cheap imports.

No dramatic growth is expected in the sporting and financial news services. Several refinements of the service, such as Extel-FA Show, which visually displays racing information in betting shops, have been introduced. The company has also halted sports information to Prestel.

Mr Brooker, who joined Extel more than 20 years ago as assistant accountant and became chairman and chief executive in July 1980, is aggressive about further expansion.

"We're looking hard in several directions, primarily at related activities in the United Kingdom and the United States, but we're not near a decision yet," he says.

Last July, the company raised £4.2m through a one-for-four rights issue to strengthen the balance sheet and set the stage for further acquisition-led growth.

"There's an element of opportunism in prospecting for acquisition," Mr Brooker says.

"We've looked at plenty of companies, but only spoken to a few."

INTERNATIONAL



JAPAN

Japan's production of videotape recorders totalled 828,000 units in January, up 85.3 per cent from January 1981. Exports to the European Community as a whole surged by 175.3 per cent to 294,000 units, while exports to the United Kingdom rose by 257.1 per cent to 124,000 units.

The pace of recovery in Japan's corporate earnings could slow to 14.2 per cent in the second half of the fiscal year from a previous expectation of 42 per cent because of recession in the United States and Europe in industries such as cars and electric goods, according to a survey of 865 companies conducted by the business newspaper Nihon Keizai.

CHINA

China's trade topped \$48,000m (£21,000m) for the first time last year, as exports rose 23 per cent. About 70 per cent of the export business was with Japan, the United States, Hongkong, West Germany, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

SAUDI ARABIA

The Italian state-owned Efim group has signed a \$300m (£165m) contract with Saudi Arabia to supply 200 M113-type armoured personnel carriers. The tracked vehicles will be equipped with American-made emerson anti-tank missiles.

Saudi Arabia boosted its exports by 12 per cent last year to 405,000m riyals (£63,800m) while imports rose by 19 per cent to 119,000m riyals (£18,740m), the Finance Ministry said.

HOLLAND

Gulf Oil plans to close its Europoort chemicals plant in Rotterdam by April 1 because of overcapacity in the industry. The company's oil refining activities would not be affected, a company spokesman said.

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government is planning to borrow the equivalent of between A \$300m (£176m) and A \$350m on the Swiss capital market to bolster its foreign currency reserves, which has been falling.

ROYAL INSURANCE

Overseas business gets tough

After last week's better than expected results from Commercial Union, it was the turn yesterday of the other large composite insurer to produce results at the top end of market forecasts.

Against estimates pitched a good £10m lower after a disappointing third quarter, Royal Insurance has managed to hold the fall in pretax profits to below 4 per cent at £117.6m.

In common with the rest of the world insurance industry, Royal has found the going tough in its main areas of operation, especially in Canada and Australia.

— the first time ever with a major insurer, Royal has changed the format of its results to provide shareholders with a clearer idea of the return from its general insurance operations by splitting out income from insurance operations and that which is more properly a return on capital in the business.

This information is already used inside companies for commercial decisions on underwriting business and Royal is now making this available to investors at large.

In changing the accounting method now Royal chairman Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen is highlighting the different problems it is facing in its main operating areas. In the United States, despite a more than doubled underwriting loss of £32.1m, the general insurance profit was unaltered at £28m but in Canada and Australia sharply higher underwriting losses still lead to an overall loss of £27.8m and £17.1m respectively.

Royal is still reasonably relaxed about its United States operations even though the current year will deteriorate. The group is picking up market share, the operating ratio of 104 per cent above average and the geographical spread improving.

In Canada Royal has taken stern remedial action with rate rises of almost a half last year and cutting out of unprofitable lines which has hit market share. The hope now is for continued recovery in Canada and Australia as rate increases work through and it is mainly this loss elimination which has led to the board's confident forecast of a better return in 1982.

Royal had a satisfactory year in the United Kingdom with premium income 15 per cent ahead. But the bad weather caused an escalation in claims with December's weather losses three times normal at £13m.

Unlike CU, Royal is now claiming to be seeing the



Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, chairman of Royal Insurance

bottom of the underwriting cycle which together with a 5 per cent rise in the dividend to 36.1 gross helped the shares gain 12p to 363p.

BLAGDEN & NOAKS

On the mend

Profits have slumped again at Blagden & Noaks which, with its spread of chemicals, plastics to steel drum interests, is often regarded as one of the more representative industrial groups.

Last year, when pretax profits were clipped back to £2m against £2.6m the group certainly bore out trends in the chemical sector.

Blagden, which changes its name this month to Blagden Industries, believes the slide has been arrested and is expecting, but not forecasting, better results this time round. Despite particularly bad results for January, caused by exceptional weather conditions, and little better in February, Blagden reports encouraging signs that demand is picking up. Profits in the region of 20 to 30 per cent ahead are within sight.

After a rather bad first half in 1981, with profits down to £928,000, Blagden expected an upsurge in the second half which failed to materialise. In turnover terms volume was down in the year by £1.6m to £58.6m. This, with pressure on profit margins, saw trading profits £500,000 lower at £2.5m.

Blagden's biggest operation making and reconditioning drums and casks to the chemical industry with ICI its largest customers increased profits to £1.68m against £1.3m. Much of the increase is still coming through from cost-savings carried out in 1980 but margins are still being squeezed.

But plastic mouldings and

transformers were worst hit with profits sliced to £242,000 against £856,000 on turnover static at £12m. The chemicals division despite a good performance from its new formaldehyde plant, saw profits down to £363,000 from £446,000. A fall in profits from £423,000 to £277,000 from industrial protective equipment is blamed on unemployment levels.

The final gross dividend is being held at 4.25p making an unchanged gross of 8.57p and the group's shares fell 5p to 112p yesterday.

WVF

Returns fall

Wholesale Vehicle Finance (WVF), which provides stock finance for British distributors of BL Cars, made an operating profit of £3.17m in the year to December, against £3.50m.

The average rate of return on the total funds subscribed by the shareholders, largest of which is the National Enterprise Board with a 75 per cent stake, was 20 per cent, 2 per cent lower than the previous year.

Despite BL increasing its market share for the first time since 1974, with its share of the United Kingdom market rising from 18.2 per cent to 19.2 per cent, the dealer network suffered a difficult year through price competition and the high cost of money.

WVF gave concessions to the network in September 1981, yielding an overall saving equivalent to a reduction of 0.5 per cent on the WVF charge. This averaged 15.6 per cent for the year, against 18.4 per cent, and was 1.3 per cent above the Average Finance Houses Base Rate.

Distributors profits for the year amount to £2.37m against £2.74m, and dividend per share is unchanged at 20p.

Besides the NEB, the other shareholders in WVF are the National Coal Board Pension Funds, Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund and United Dominions Trust with 84 per cent each.

A new subsidiary, WVF Commercial, started operations in January 1981, funding commercial vehicles for British distributors of Leyland vehicles, and had an operating profit of £142,000 for the six months of operation.

Distributors have gradually been brought on to the scheme, but progress has been slower than expected due to the depressed state of the commercial vehicle market.

Mr Alfred Singer, chairman of WVF, said that the group's performance during the year had been good, given the problems of BL.

SANGERS GROUP

Branches Close

Sangers Group has drastically cut its loss-making pharmaceutical interests with the sale or closure of 12 of its 14 branches.

Seven are being closed with the loss of 400 jobs. A further five are being sold but will continue trading, protecting most of the jobs at these branches. Three will be bought by McCarthy's Pharmaceuticals for £1.5m cash.

This leaves the two branches in Northern Ireland as Sangers' only remaining pharmaceutical interests. The charges will generate about £2m.

Mr George Robinson, chairman, said it had become necessary to stem losses in the pharmaceuticals division but said it was too early to say where the proceeds would be reinvested.

Much of the interests in the group had centred on the near 24 per cent stake built up by Bermuda-based financier Mr Tom Whyte and his apparent attempts to gain control of the company. He was in Florida yesterday and unavailable for comment but Mr Robinson doubted whether he would launch a full bid at present.

Sangers retains its photographic and optical interests plus Sangers Agencies and Castlereagh Agencies. The agencies sell and distribute for major British and overseas companies.

Sangers lost just over £1m in the half-year to August, despite the pharmaceuticals business increasing its market share and holding its losses at the previous year's level.

The branches to be closed are at Brighton, Llandudno, Bournemouth, Bedford and Truro to extend operations into Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. It will also acquire stock from the branches at Brighton and Bedford for up to £700,000. Branches are also being sold at Reading and Maidstone.

Sangers' shares were suspended on Friday at 46p and are expected to be re-quoted today.

FOSECO MINSEP

£4m buyout

A management buyout has been completed by M. J. H. Nightingale's Over-the-Counter market to enable CCL Group to purchase a group of companies trading as CCL Systems from Foseco Minsep.

Foseco agreed to the sale, for £4m, because CCL's activities increasingly fall outside its own mainstream interests in the supply of specialist chemicals. CCL is the new holding company covering four main divisions — civil engineering, construction materials, wire rope swaging, and electrical.

Foseco has received £3.3m in consideration and £700,000 from interim dividends. Foseco has also agreed to lend CCL Group £700,000 at a reduced rate of interest repayable in 1987 and 1988.

Pretax profits in 1977 were £309,000 and estimates for 1981 are £825,000 on turnover of £9.9m. Trading starts tomorrow. It will be the 21st stock to be traded on the OTC market.

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For further information contact Head of Advertisement Department, BBC Publications, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AA. Telephone 01-580 5577.

BIDS AND DEALS

C. Itoh and Co one of Japan's largest trading houses, plans to establish a company in London to specialise in trading crude oil and oil products, a company spokesman said in Tokyo yesterday. The new company forms part of C. Itoh's strategy of boosting its third-country sales of petroleum goods to a targeted 30 per cent of its total of dealings, from the current 10 per cent.

Pritchard Services Group yesterday announced the acquisition of the Sheffield-based Arrow Securities. Purchase price was £215,000.

UTAC yesterday said that it had acquired all the issued capital of Radiovisor Parent has become unconditional and will remain open until June 2. This follows acceptance in respect of more than 95 per cent of the deferred and ordinary shares in Radiovisor Parent.

LL and E Indonesia (Southwest Java) wholly-owned subsidiary of Louisiana Land and Exploration has signed an agreement with

Pertamina, the State-owned oil company of Indonesia, calling for LL and E Indonesia and a subsidiary of Getty Oil to jointly conduct exploration work on a 2,291,580-acre block in the northern portion of the Indian Ocean, offshore south Java. The agreement, under which LL and E Indonesia will be the operator, requires an extensive seismic work over the initial two years of the six-year exploration programme.

The receiver of L. B. Holliday and Company Mr Peter Copp, of Stoy Haywood, yesterday announced that the business has been sold as a going concern to a Jersey-based consortium headed by Mr Terry Brain, Holliday, Huddersfield maker of dyestuffs and intermediate products, went into receivership last October. The company has continued trading during receivership and rationalisation carried out by the receiver has reduced the workforce from 450 to 320. Despite difficult trading conditions sales have been maintained at an annual rate of about £9m and, United Kingdom sales in particular have held up. The purchasers have acquired all assets at Huddersfield as well as subsidiaries.

CAPITAL MARKETS

The Italian state railway, Ferrovie dello Stato, is raising £m150m through a five-year bullet Eurobond lead managed by Commerzbank AG, bond market sources said.

The issue carries an indicated coupon of 10 1/2 per cent with open pricing. Market conditions indicate an issue price of 99 1/2 per cent. Final conditions are expected to be set on March 10.

Mexico is floating £100m of five-year notes on the Swiss capital market for private placement, market sources said.

The coupon of the bullet issue was set at 8 1/2 per cent and issue price at par by lead manager United Bank of Switzerland.

The Swiss Government has privately placed Fr55m of 5 1/2 per cent, five-year notes at par, banking sources said. The bullet issue renews a maturing six-year note issue.

Mureta Manufacturing Company's Dm50m convertible Eurobond has been postponed, lead manager Bayerische Vereinsbank said.

Postponement of the eight-year bond, on which final terms were to be set yesterday, is at the borrower's wish and follows a sharp fall in the company share price since the issue's launch on February 18, Bayerische Vereinsbank said.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany's Index of Import Prices (1976 equals 100) stood at 144.4 in January, up 0.8 per cent from December and up 6.9 per cent from January last year. The 6.9 per cent import price rise was the lowest year-to-year increase in a month since March 1979.

BELGIUM

EEC prices rose by 1 per cent in January and were 12.5 per cent higher than in 1981, the statistical agencies in Brussels said. Inflation in the 10 member countries picked up from December's rate of 8.7 per cent but was virtually the same in the previous three months.

PEOPLE
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The Church of
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Peter Vainwright
NEW
APPOINTMENTS
...
Philip Perry
...
David Morris
...
Edward O. Collins

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Cyprus is so British - Panayides

What I like about people who want our money is that they are so British. Take the Greek Cypriot community. Yesterday the Cyprus Trade Centre helped by the London Chamber of Commerce told us how like us they were. Their law is the same; English is widely spoken. The currency is based on the pound. Their accountants and lawyers are English trained. They do more business with us (wines, grapes, potatoes, and so on) than with anyone else.

Even so, Mr Tassos Panayides, the Cyprus High Commissioner, wants more English money and knows how. Cyprus is a tax haven (brass-plate companies pay only 4.25 per cent tax) and it is apparently an economical place to set up business, tax wise, if you wish to penetrate the Middle East. Larnaca has an industrial free zone.

However, of 1200 enterprises in Greek Cyprus, only 200 are British. The Cypriots hope that this reflects our exchange control (until recently) rather than anything else. But do not expect amazing tourist package deals. Cyprus does not have the hotels, or indeed the inclination to accommodate "down market" holiday makers.

The only Ex British Greek Cypriot businessman of consequence in this country that I know of is Mr Rex Stakis of the leisure group of that name. He will not be speaking tomorrow at the London Chamber of Commerce conference. I do not know why.

Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, appears no longer to need the flamboyant services of Tony Ball, the super salesman he appointed four years ago to breathe life into the company's international marketing operation. But he has now decided to quit.

Ball, noted for the excellence of his after-dinner speaking, has performed his task at BL admirably but he does not fit in any more with the new, steadier, less aggressive BL corporate marketing image.

Ex-Ford man Trevor Taylor, Ball's second in command, who is tipped as his successor, has the distinction of being the only executive whom Sir Terence Beckett, when chairman of Ford of Britain, said he would re-employ. Usually, those who leave Ford are destined never to return.



The Churchill of crime

Monica de Hellerman is trying to make crime pay at least for conference organizers like her. Miss de Hellerman, an American, is organizing a symposium here in London at the Churchill Hotel (March 11 to 13) on Crime in Business.

Her speciality is in having the people who commit, investigate or prosecute crime to address delegates at this kind of conference. In this instance Miss de Hellerman is promising a videotape of alleged KGB detector Kari Tuomi discussing the ways in which his former employers pinch American and British business secrets.

France's Communist Transport Minister Charles Fiterman is facing similar problems on Paris transport fares as the GLC's Ken Livingstone has on London's bus and tube fares. But whereas Livingstone wanted the fares to be subsidized by rate-payers, Fiterman looked to employers. The project has been killed - not by France's legal equivalent of the House of Lords, the Conseil Constitutionnel - but by Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy who does not want to raise industry's costs.

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Philip Perry has been appointed group secretary of Barclays Bank, in succession to the late Mr Douglas Johnson.

Mr David Marks, a local director of Barclays Bank's Manchester district, has been appointed a Caribbean director at Barclays Bank International's Caribbean head office in Barbados.

Mr Edward D Collins has been appointed a non-executive director of Hanson Trust.

Opec's surpluses are dropping fast. Michael Prest examines the financial implications

Recycling oil funds — the rules of the game start to change

For almost a decade one of the world financial markets' primary concerns has been "recycling" — the current account surplus of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. But there is now widespread speculation that the days of recycling are over. As Opec surpluses are depressed by falling oil prices the 1980s look very different from the 1970s.

There is little doubt about the figures. On any reasonable estimate last year's collective Opec surplus was well below the record \$125,000m accumulated in 1980, and this year could well see it further reduced by a half to \$35,000m. At that level the surplus is the same in cash terms as it was in 1975, the first full year of greatly increased oil prices, but over the intervening years purchasing power has fallen by more than 50 per cent.

Opec's trade is therefore suffering in two ways. Individual members' gross revenue from oil exports may be insufficient to cover imports. First, since oil accounts for much the largest part of Opec foreign exchange earnings, and since prices for commodities other than oil are also at the lowest for 20 years, the outlook is serious.

Second, the terms of trade have shifted against Opec, possibly for the first time since 1974. The cost of imports continues to be forced up remorselessly by inflation in industrial countries, while oil prices fall. It may be that over several years reduced oil prices will also cool inflation, but in the meantime Opec members will have to borrow, as Libya did last year, or dig into their reserves built up during the boom.

As the table shows, eight of the 13 Opec members have only small foreign exchange reserves, measured either absolutely or relative to their needs. The four Arabian members and Libya, by contrast, enjoy a felicitous combination of high oil production, and small populations.

The implication is that the first five in the table will contribute most, if not all of the Opec surplus this year, and possibly into the mid-1980s. Even if Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest exporter and foreign exchange earner, does cut its crude production from 8.5 million barrels a day, Opec collectively is unlikely to go into deficit unless oil prices collapse in a manner which is not generally anticipated.



Clerks at the Saudi Investment Bank, Jeddah: Arab banks will take an increasing role in recycling surplus cash built on the sale of oil

The prospect, therefore, is of a small surplus, concentrated in a handful of countries. "Recycling" will not stop, but the scope of the exercise will be diminished. Critically, the massive redistribution of income which characterised the middle years of the 1970s will be replaced by handful of countries with payments surpluses — a common enough state of affairs. By the same token, however, it will be much harder to blame currency instability on oil prices and Opec surpluses.

On this logic, the financial system will be saved from the uncertainty caused by powerful flows of "hot" money. In one respect at least bankers will return to more recognizable territory: the cash which would have passed to smaller Opec exporters, back to western and Japanese financial institutions, and out again, will in part skip the first stage. To that extent the world financial system will be a little simpler.

But the banking business marches on. The worry is that Opec members faced with balance of payments deficits could well resort to borrowing from those same banks which only a year or two before were competing for their deposits. Some of the funds will, of course, come from Opec members still in surplus. What is emerging, however, is how exaggerated was the recycling idea: acting as intermedi-

THE SURPLUSES

	\$000m
1975	35,000
1976	38,000
1977	33,500
1978	13,200
1979	63,000
1980	126,000
1981 (estimate)	70,000
1982 (projection)	35,000

THE RESERVES

	\$000m
Saudi Arabia	161,600
Libya	32,400
United Arab Emirates	76,200
Qatar	38,800
Iran	16,100
Iraq	3,000
Nigeria	31,000
Algeria	4,500
Gabon	4,800
Venezuela	700
Ecuador	700
Indonesia	10,000

aries between the source and application of funds has always been the purpose of financial systems.

The two facts that, put crudely, the cash is still in the system and that "recycling" will continue, albeit in a different guise, suggest that smaller Opec surpluses do not mean less banking business. But they do imply changed business. The vital trait of Opec surpluses was that they were liquid assets searching for investment outlets.

For currency, political and administrative reasons many

Opec members, particularly those with big surpluses, retained a high proportion of their excess revenues on deposit rather than investing in fixed assets, bonds, equities or other securities.

This is not to say that investment is about to dry up. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the other surplus countries will continue to be net investors abroad. Interest alone on previously invested funds almost matches oil revenues and therefore guarantees income to the host of intermediaries and advisers who swarmed around the Arabian money pot.

On the whole, however, the emphasis in future should shift over the next few years from dampening the instability threatened by huge financial flows rapidly accumulated to more limited and specialist concerns for countries' individual requirements. Recycling is moving from the general to the particular.

Three consequences follow. The climate of international financial operations will alter, possibly for the better. Governments and banks will no longer need to worry as they did six or seven years ago about the affect on the dollar and exchange and interest rates of apparently indigestible Opec surpluses.

Such phenomena may well spring from other causes, but blaming the Arabs is less

convincing with every fall in the oil price.

This general improvement, if such it proves to be, will take time to show through, however. The second consequence is being felt now. Whatever happened on the exchanges, banks involved in recycling earned profits from handling the funds. Extra deposits were translated into extra loans, some to the Third World, and balance sheets swelled. Then came commissions from stockbrokers, bond salesmen, commodity dealers, and the whole panoply of investment advisers.

If part of this business is to be replaced, it will have to come from sources nearer home. Banks, stockbrokers and others who opened the Middle East branches will therefore need to justify costly overheads. Offices in Bahrain, Dubai and Jeddah will either close, suffer a contraction, or become more closely involved in the local markets.

That process has already started. But what is less noticed, although it is partly the consequence of these trends, is that Opec institutions, the Arab banks notably, are making inroads into a recycling business which was until recently dominated by western and Japanese houses. Arab banks and sister companies such as the major Kuwaiti investment houses are firmly established in the syndicated loan and bond markets, and are poised to move into the related areas.

Being Arab and local helps a great deal, of course. Rich private investors who abound in the Gulf like to do business with their compatriots — even if they are Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian — and they occasionally feel uncomfortable about the publicity which can surround the activities of western banks. More important, Opec states with investible surpluses have encouraged indigenous banking and related expertise. The Arab Banking Corporation, the Gulf International Bank (both based in Bahrain), and a number of smaller banks, have been set up by governments and rulers as shareholders.

One plausible outcome, therefore, of diminishing Opec surpluses is that a higher proportion of the recycling trade will pass into the hands of either Arab or Indonesian or Venezuelan. This represents a transfer of financial knowledge and skill which, in the long run, could prove as significant as the transfer of income caused by soaring oil prices in the mid-1970s.



Football trying to score with absentee fans

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING: THE SELLING OF SOCCER

By Torin Douglas

Music and emotion have always been powerful sales weapons. Last week the 92 chairmen of the Football League clubs were persuaded that they could well provide one answer to the game's appalling financial problems, though not until next season.

The chairman saw a presentation from the advertising agency which had been chosen for a campaign aimed at getting the country's armchair soccer fans back in the stands where, in the club's view, they belong.

The strategy is unashamedly emotional, playing heavily on the excitement and atmosphere of actually being at a football match. Central to the campaign is a football-style song — "We'll be there" — which is virtually guaranteed to hammer its way into the nation's consciousness in the way the best advertising jingles have done over the years.

After years of declining attendances, and increasing financial problems — culminating in last week's decision by Hull City to call in the receiver — the football clubs are starting to look seriously at techniques which in any conventional business have been commonplace for years.

Six months ago, the Football League appointed a marketing manager, Graham Walker, who moved from the Conservative Party's ad agency, Saatchi and Saatchi, where he was a director.

Walker masterminded last week's marketing presentation to the chairmen and he went about the exercise in the same way he would for any major marketing campaign.

He conducted research, to find out how the product was perceived and what its problems were; he briefed a number of advertising agencies and saw presentations from them; he then selected

two approaches to be shown to the "focus" in this case the League chairmen. "One approach is designed to capture the emotions", says Walker, "and the other is designed to offer football spectators a better deal. We think this combination, together with other proposals we have put forward on public relations, sponsorship, new media opportunities and new product development — in the form of an indoor game called Soccer Six, which we shall be launching on a pilot basis at the end of this season — should bring back spectators and improve the financial viability of the game."

The J. Walter Thompson campaign is central to the plan. One marketing expert said it was one of the best presentations he had ever seen, for any product, and it was undoubtedly responsible for arousing the chairmen's enthusiasm for the whole marketing package.

Football resembles most marketing commodities that are in decline, except for one thing — it receives over 150 hours of television coverage a year, something that most marketing companies would pay millions for, either in straight television advertising or in the form of sponsorship.

J. Walter Thompson pinpointed the reason that this television coverage was not helping the game. Television was not actively taking spectators away from grounds — League games are not broadcast live — but it was making football look very bland through its presentation.

"Television coverage of soccer is intended as an entertainment in itself," says John Falne, a J. Walter Thompson director. "It is not there to sell live soccer and it

Unfortunately, of course, such campaigns can be expensive and at a time when football's finances are at an even lower ebb than usual, clubs are likely to be reluctant to spend very much money. For this reason, the Football League is considering ways of raising up to £5 million to put towards promotional campaigns of this sort.

One obvious route is sponsorship and the league yesterday announced that the National Dairy Council would be backing the League Cup — to be called the Milk Cup — from next season.

A more imaginative fund-raising proposal has been put forward by one of the other advertising agencies who presented for the business, The Hutton Company, which has come up with the concept of the Football League Supporters Club.

This proposal, which also caught the imagination of the League chairmen, is Walker's second approach — the one offering spectators a better deal — and it will enable members to buy a wide variety of goods and services more cheaply in addition to giving them benefits more directly connected with football.

"We want the Football League Supporters Club to be the largest club in the country," says the agency's chairman David Hutton. "There would be a charge of £3 or so and in return members would get a card,

rather like the Countdown card, which would give them immediate reductions on all sorts of purchases. We would be creating a bulk-buying vehicle with the clout to get large discounts for members."

Members would also get a £3 voucher which could be used for admission to a game on specified days, so they would immediately get their money back, and there would be any number of merchandising opportunities such as T-shirts, car stickers, carrier bags and so on.

J. Walter Thompson also has a number of merchandising ideas based on the "We'll Be There" theme, including badges reading "I Was There" and incorporating the scoreline of the match the spectator had seen and milk bottle collars to remind people of their local team's forthcoming matches.

Quite how the two campaigns will be knitted together has yet to be decided. Both schemes are still technically just proposals which have to be approved (and their budgets found and finalised) by the League's commercial sub-committee, though after their enthusiastic reception a last week's meeting this is likely to be a formality.

Marketing obviously is not the only answer to football's problems. The product itself has to be improved, with better facilities at grounds, a reduction in violence on the terraces and a more positive approach on the field.

Nevertheless, there is little doubt that by calling in the professionals, albeit at the last moment, League clubs will have a better chance of withstanding the recession next season.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13 3/4%
Barclays	13 3/4%
BCCI	13 3/4%
Consolidated Crds	13 3/4%
C. Hoare & Co	13 3/4%
Lloyds Bank	13 3/4%
Midland Bank	13 3/4%
Nat Westminster	13 3/4%
TSB	13 3/4%
Williams & Glyn's	13 3/4%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 up to £20,000 12 1/2% £20,000 and over

Business Editor

Burmah loses its nerve

Burmah Oil has done its reputation no good over the lame handling of the bid for Croda. The takeover was being trumpeted as a core element in the group's newly-framed strategy to build up a speciality chemicals business, so yesterday's decision not to up the ante for Croda puts something of a question mark over the group's development.

It seems silly for Burmah to argue that it would have been prepared to raise its terms slightly after the 1982 profits forecast but for the big dividend increase which has swept the shares out of its reach. The truth of the matter is that Croda chairman Sir Freddie Wood is a past master of the takeover game and has been outmanoeuvring Burmah all along.

In what always looked as though it would be a hotly-contested bid, it soon became apparent that the original £73m offer never stood a chance, but the stockmarket has been sending out fairly clear signals that it would have been prepared to listen more seriously if the offer had been approved by another £8m. Many agreed that this would still not have been an outrageous price for a company that was evidently on the mend.

Clearly, Burmah was frightened of appearing to pay too much for a company which was a net drain on its cash resources. But in looking for fresh ways of determining its future similar growth by acquisition will not be easy now that Croda has escaped its clutches.

For its part Croda has a lot to live up to after the profits and dividend forecasts of the last couple of months and it must be hoping that the market will not upset these plans. Croda shares dropped 7p to 75p after the news at which level they can just about justify the fundamentals.

Burmah, however, is unlikely to add to its 14.9 per cent Croda holding as a trade investment, so the possibility of a share placing is likely to overhang the price. In the event, only Croda shareholders are likely to feel hard done by, despite the fact that they are likely to see their holding at levels that have never been seen before and might not be seen again.

Services

Growth area

Barriers to invisible trade are rapidly becoming a vogue issue. Last month the Committee on Invisible Exports in London set up a body to examine the question. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris has been beavering away at the issue for some time, chiefly at the behest of the United States.

This is intended as a prelude to a new round of world trade negotiations aimed, in part, at reducing barriers to cross-frontier trade in fields like banking, insurance, shipping, telecommunications, advertising, consultancy among others.

The Americans, in particular, have been pushing hard for greater liberalization. That is hardly surprising: more than half of the American gross domestic product comes from the services sector, even if Government services are excluded. In the case of Britain, the proportion is about two-fifths. This is about the same as for most other Western countries, with the principal exception of Germany.

For many of them, services are more important than manufacturing. Yet, until now, people have been worrying more about de-industrialization than about building up their services industries, although according to classical theory, there is a normal tendency for countries to develop from agricultural economies to predominantly service-oriented economies.

According to Ronald

Shelp, the author of "Beyond Industrialisation" (just published by Praeger), political institutions have always tended to lag behind economic reality. This is true today when the services industries are pushing for greater political recognition as it was 150 years ago when the industrial classes were beginning to assert themselves in a world dominated by the landed gentry.

Ronald Shelp is an executive of American International Group and chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce International Service Industry Committee. The effectiveness of the services lobby in America can be gauged from the fact that two pieces of draft legislation are before Congress aimed at bringing the law governing services into line with that for trade in goods.

The problem is that while many countries have become service economies, few people have considered the implications of this. Will a service-oriented economy be built on supplying low-skilled personal services or will the skills and talent required be more sophisticated? What does it mean for employment and growth? Will it bring an end to pollution, capital shortages and economic fluctuations? Does it imply a growth or reduction in the size of Government? They are questions that need addressing, otherwise the development of a world economy in which service activities play a prominent role will, in Shelp's opinion, inevitably lead to conflict.

Barclays

Confident

At first glance Barclays' results are mildly disappointing showing only an 8 per cent pre-tax gain to £567m. Moreover, most of this has come from the international side, while the UK parent bank is down for the second year running.

Barclays Bank International (BBI) has had a good year, growing strongly. International net interest income rose to £100m, a 37 per cent increase on £72.3m. The North American operations have done much better than the previous year and though higher bad debt provisions — reflecting the involvement in Poland and elsewhere and increased interest on loan capital have contained the increase, BBI still managed an improvement from £160m to £198m before tax.

On the domestic side, Mercantile Credit's achievement was reflected in the advance from £38m to £52m profit before loan interest and the drop in the group tax charge from £152m to £105m on account of leasing. But the parent bank's profits were down from £291m before loan interest to £267m.

Barclays claims a 1/2 per cent rise in domestic share, doubtless helped by its growth in mortgage lending. But lower interest rates, a further small swing from current to deposit accounts and a rather higher rise in staff costs — up by 15 per cent — than say Nat West, appears to have accounted for the drop.

Domestic bad debts provision at Barclays has fallen, although not by the huge extent seen at Nat West.

The underlying domestic performance from Barclays and Nat West was probably broadly similar if this is allowed for, and not as good as Lloyds.

The balance sheet growth at Barclays from £37,100m to £48,000m gives an indication of why Barclays recently raised £100m on the bond market to strengthen its capital base.

Meanwhile the 19 per cent dividend rise and indication that it will be maintained after the one-for-five scrip shows there is no lack of confidence. At 48p the prospective yield is 7.9 per cent.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Peter Ch	Ge	Gross Div	Yld	Actual	P/E	Fully
124	100	ABJ Hldgs 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	—	—	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.0	15.4	—	—
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.5	3.8	8.5	—	—
205	187	Bardon Hill	200	—	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8	—	—
1	1	CL 11% Conv Pref	1	—	15.7	15.7	—	—	—	—
104	69	Deborah Services	69kd	—	6.0	8.7	3.3	6.5	—	—
131	97	Frank Horrell	131	—	6.4	4.9	11.8	24.3	—	—
83	39	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7	4.2	8.1	—	—
78	46	George Blair	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind Pref Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.3	10.3	—	—
106	100	Isle Conv Pref	106	—	15.7	14.8	—	—	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9	—	—
130	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3	—	—
334	258	Rupert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5	6.8	—	—
60	51	Scripps "A"	60	—	5.3	8.8	9.2	8.5	—	—
222	160	Torday & Carlisle	160	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—	—
15	10	Twinkl Ord	137	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinkl 15% ULS	78	—	15.0	19.2	4.5	7.6	—	—
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—	—
103	73	Walker Alexander	76	—	6.4	8.4	5.0	8.8	—	—
263	212	W. S. Yates	228	—	13.1	5.7	4.3	8.8	—	—

Prices now available on Prestal page 48146

Short straw: f
the quarter

SPORT

CRICKET

ROUND-UP

FOOTBALL

League Cup with £2.5m worth of cream on top

By Norman Fox

Expected to contribute an estimated £1m a season, the Football League Cup will be the most valuable trophy in the game, according to the Football League Council. The trophy, which is valued at £2.5m, is the most valuable trophy in the game, according to the Football League Council. The trophy, which is valued at £2.5m, is the most valuable trophy in the game, according to the Football League Council.

A land flowing with milk and money, and bread and water

Noose tightens round Halifax

By Norman Fox

Halifax Town, a fourth division club, is being taken over by a consortium of businessmen. The takeover is being financed by a consortium of businessmen. The takeover is being financed by a consortium of businessmen. The takeover is being financed by a consortium of businessmen.

French victory inspires forwards

There was no shortage of goals when France's World Cup players returned to their clubs after the weekend. The players returned to their clubs after the weekend. The players returned to their clubs after the weekend.

European league results

There was no change at the top of the Spanish league. The Spanish league results are as follows: Real Madrid 1-0, Barcelona 2-0, Valencia 1-0, etc.

Short straw for Sale in the quarter-final

By Peter West

To Sale, conquerors of Rostov Park last Saturday, falls the Leicester privilege of playing Gloucestershire in the quarter-final of the John Player Cup on Saturday.

S. Africa: golden hands across the great divide

Britain and US top the blacklist

By Simon Scott Plummer

The British and American sportsmen have been the most sporting contacts with South Africa, according to a United Nations blacklist published yesterday.

TCCB must not desert Test men

By John Woodcock

Listening yesterday to the hysterical reactions of people who should know better, to the arrival in South Africa of a team of England Test cricketers, I was reminded of what was said to me in Soweto in September 1975, by two eminent South Africans, one a town councillor, the other an authority of the local cricketing community.

Rain ruins hopes of Test result

Wellington, New Zealand

The first Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Eden Park ground here was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Jaeger's first win over Evert

Oakland, California, March 1

Andre Jaeger recorded his first victory over Chris Evert Lloyd yesterday in the \$150,000 Avon Championship of California for the second year running.

Peter Willey and gear at Johannesburg airport

Johannesburg, South Africa

enable them to continue their Test careers. If the ICC and the TCCB had done their stuff by sending to South Africa, on their own terms, sides to monitor the situation, this need never have happened.

Players may gain little from gamble

By John Witherow

While the decision to play in South Africa for some of the older cricketers nearing the end of their careers can be seen as a gamble, it is rather more of a gamble for players such as Graham Gooch and John Edmonds.

Rugby Union

Barbarians pick Butler in place

By David Hands

When Alan Morley, the Bristol captain, scored a try near the end of the John Player Cup tie with the Barbarians on Saturday, the club chairman, Peter Colson, said: "Must be worth £5,000 to us, that try."

Cup run can recoup losses at the Memorial Ground

By David Hands

combined with the 15 per cent VAT imposed by the Government on sports clubs, makes the Bristol feel particularly pained. The club chairman, Peter Colson, said: "Must be worth £5,000 to us, that try."

Smith's place in sun

By John Woodcock

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Quarter final gates over 10,000 likely

By Keith MacKinn

Attendances in excess of 10,000 are expected at each of the quarter final ties in the Challenge Cup, sponsored by State Express. These four ties will be played, under the auspices of the Rugby Football League, at the first three teams in the first division table, bidding for a Cup and league double.

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Rugby Union

Barbarians pick Butler in place

By David Hands

When Alan Morley, the Bristol captain, scored a try near the end of the John Player Cup tie with the Barbarians on Saturday, the club chairman, Peter Colson, said: "Must be worth £5,000 to us, that try."

Cup run can recoup losses at the Memorial Ground

By David Hands

combined with the 15 per cent VAT imposed by the Government on sports clubs, makes the Bristol feel particularly pained. The club chairman, Peter Colson, said: "Must be worth £5,000 to us, that try."

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

Radio 4

Radio 3

Radio 1

World Service

9.00 Open University: Is it as easy as ABC? 7.05 Apendant Figures: 1. 7.30 A Question of Interpretation: 7.55 Chessdown. 9.35 For Schools: 10.10 Look and Read. 10.35 Resolute Units: English. 11.00 Watch: Dinosaurs: 11.17 Television. 11.35 Shakespeare in perspective. The Tempest. 12.05 General Studies: Party Lines. 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news and SE only. Financial report and news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One with the host of the Barbican Centre on the eve of its opening. 1.45 Bod and the Bird narrated by Sam Leinster and Maggie Henderson (r). 2.00 You and Me. For four and five year olds (r). 2.15 For Schools. Collages: Folk tunes with the fiddle. 2.40 Communicate! 3.00 Chessdown. 3.53 Regional news (not London).

9.40 Open University: Electronic Design and Signals. 7.05 Motion: Newton's Laws. 7.30 Handicapped in the Community. 7.55 Chessdown. 9.35 For Schools: 11.35 Play School. 11.25 Chessdown. 3.55 The Old Boy Network: Lesbia Saracy (r).

9.35 For Schools: The roles of the sexes. 9.55 Sports reporting. 10.15 Maths for seven and eight year olds. 10.35 The young as seen by the press. 11.03 Basic maths. 11.22 The different forms of rail transport. 11.35 The historical sights of Paris. 12.00 Button Moon: Rocket adventures for the very young. 12.10 Les Pretend: For the young: the making of a play. 12.30 The Sullivan: Drama series about a Melbourne family during World War Two. 1.00 News. 1.30 Take the High Road. Drama series set in the highland estate of Glendunoch. 2.00 After Noon Plus. A review of the month's news by Anthony Howard and Penelope Worthmore. Introduced by Mavis Nicolson and Trevor Hyatt. 2.45 The Sandbaggers. Spy series starring Roy Marsden as department boss. Neil Burnside. (r) 3.45 Welcome Back, Kotter. American high school comedy starring Gabe Kaplan and John Travolta.

6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 Today. 6.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Tuesday Call. 9.10 News. 10.02 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story. "Franchise Day" by Robert Falecy. 11.00 News. 11.05 Thirty Minute Theatre: "Sleeping Dogs" by Geoff Nicholson. 11.25 Theatre. 12.00 News. 12.02 You and Yours. 12.27 Quake. Linqueter. 1.30 The World at One: News. 1.40 The Archers. 2.02 Women's Hour. 2.00 News. 2.02 Black House. by Charles Dickens (part 4). 4.00 "Eldon's End". John Eldon reflects on the British scene. 4.15 Town Teacher. A scheme to involve youngsters in their colourful heritage. 4.45 "The Young Wives' Fango" by Harry Secombe (r). 5.00 News magazine. 5.00 The Six O'Clock News including 5.15 BBC World. 5.30 Brain of Britain 1982. 5.35 News. 5.40 The Archers. 5.50 Animal Language. 6.20 Take a Message to the Moon: Peter Jackson reports on the Navajo Indians. 9.05 In Touch. Magazine for the 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 10.00 The World Tonight: News. 10.30 Semi-Circles (new series) with Royal Festival Hall, London. Part 1. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole (r). 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News: Weather Report; Forecast. 12.15 Shipping Forecast; Inshore Forecast.

VHF only: 6.50-6.55 Morning Show. 10.00 For Schools. 10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother. 11.00-11.15 For Schools. 2.00-2.15 For Schools. 11.00 Study on 4. For Librarians: Part three. Special Communications. Special Needs (r). 11.30-12.10 University of the Third Age. 17.00-17.55. 11.50 Biochemists and Biochemists.

and their implications for learning. British String Quartet recital. 11.00 News. 11.05 News. 11.10 News. 11.15 News. 11.20 News. 11.25 News. 11.30 News. 11.35 News. 11.40 News. 11.45 News. 11.50 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 1.10 News. 1.15 News. 1.20 News. 1.25 News. 1.30 News. 1.35 News. 1.40 News. 1.45 News. 1.50 News. 1.55 News. 2.00 News. 2.05 News. 2.10 News. 2.15 News. 2.20 News. 2.25 News. 2.30 News. 2.35 News. 2.40 News. 2.45 News. 2.50 News. 2.55 News. 3.00 News. 3.05 News. 3.10 News. 3.15 News. 3.20 News. 3.25 News. 3.30 News. 3.35 News. 3.40 News. 3.45 News. 3.50 News. 3.55 News. 4.00 News. 4.05 News. 4.10 News. 4.15 News. 4.20 News. 4.25 News. 4.30 News. 4.35 News. 4.40 News. 4.45 News. 4.50 News. 4.55 News. 5.00 News. 5.05 News. 5.10 News. 5.15 News. 5.20 News. 5.25 News. 5.30 News. 5.35 News. 5.40 News. 5.45 News. 5.50 News. 5.55 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 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